

Israelis undecided on Akawi's death

TEL AVIV (K) — Israel said on Friday it had yet to determine whether to prosecute secret police involved in the interrogation of a Palestinian activist who died after being shackled, hooded and deprived of sleep in a freezing cell. The justice ministry contradicted comments made on Thursday by Police Minister Ronni Milo who said the Shin Bet secret police had been cleared of any wrongdoing in the death of Mustafa Akawi. "The police report of the investigation and the recommendations of the police have been received and are under review by the state attorney's office, and no decision on the case is expected until next week," a justice ministry spokesman told Reuters. The United States and Amnesty International have asked Israel to hold an independent inquiry into Akawi's death. New York pathologist Michael Baden, who attended Akawi's autopsy in Israel on Feb. 7, said the treatment Akawi received in prison precipitated a fatal heart attack. On Wednesday, Dr. Baden and fellow physician Robert Kirschner told a news conference in New York that Akawi's death bordered on homicide and was not from natural causes. Both men are associated with Physicians for Human Rights.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

Iraq says has not asked to resume oil talks with U.N.

GENEVA (R) — Iraq has not asked to resume talks with the United Nations on restarting crude oil exports, embargoed since early in the Gulf crisis, Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said on Friday. Mr. Hiti, asked by a reporter if it was correct that Baghdad had asked to restart the discussions, replied: "That is incorrect. I did not ask for a resumption of the talks." "We are still holding the same position as before. We want the United Nations to understand our position and the arguments we presented in Vienna (when the two sides met last)." Mr. Hiti is attending a meeting of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' oil ministers. Iraqi and U.N. officials met in January to discuss the possible resumption of Baghdad's oil export under terms laid down by the U.N. Security Council. The meeting ended on an upbeat note. But Iraq announced that it would not attend a second round of talks set for last week after the U.N. delegates had already arrived in Vienna. The plan would have let Iraq sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil over six months. All the proceeds would have been funnelled into a U.N. account.

Volume 17 Number 4931

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1992, SHA'BAN 11, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kuwaiti VIP murdered in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A member of Kuwait's ruling family has been stabbed to death by her maid in Cairo, security sources said on Friday. They said the 42-year-old maid, who is under arrest, stabbed Sheikh Latifa Abdullah Jaber Al Sabah ten times on Thursday for refusing to allow her to travel to the Philippines. Sheikh Latifa, 45, is the ex-wife of a brother of Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the sources added. The maid is under arrest.

Gulf war picture scoops world press awards

AMSTERDAM (R) — U.S. photographer David Turnley won the world press photo of the year 1991 award with his emotional image of a wounded soldier weeping beside the body of a dead comrade in a helicopter on the last day of the Gulf war. The picture shows U.S. Sergeant Ken Kozakiewicz grieving after learning that his best friend, in a body bag next to him, had been killed by friendly fire. Mr. Turnley's picture was chosen as overall winner from nearly 18,000 entries by a jury of eight men and one woman appointed by the World Press Photo Foundation. Over 1,600 photographers from 75 countries took part in the competition.

French reporter says Americans held in Vietnam

PARIS (R) — A veteran French television reporter just back from Vietnam has said he was told there that 72 U.S. servicemen were still being held in a detention camp. Hanoi denies holding any American prisoners from the Vietnam war, in which North Vietnam defeated U.S. and South Vietnamese forces in 1975. Reporter Michel Honorin told France's Antenne 2 channel: "I was told the prisoners were all special forces-type who stayed behind after the end of the war to continue to fight the communists alongside Montagnard (ethnic) tribesmen. My informants told me the American prisoners were all people who were captured or surrendered after the end of the war."

Israeli officers on trial for extortion

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli reserve officers went on trial at a special military court in Tel Aviv on charges of extorting a Palestinian businessman in the occupied Gaza Strip, an army spokesman said on Friday. He said the trial of Lieutenant-Colonel Yacov Lapid and Major Dani Janah began on Thursday. They are accused of forcing Gaza textile factory owner Ziad Al Yaziji at gunpoint to give them a cheque for 750,000 shekels (\$317,000) last July.

Turkish police seize 75 kg of heroin

ISTANBUL (R) — Police seized 75 kg of heroin found stashed in a truck bound for the Netherlands in Istanbul on Friday, Turkey's Anatolian news agency reported. One person was arrested and a weapon and bullets were also found in the truck, the semi-official agency said. Turkey is on the Balkan route which smugglers use to ship drugs from Afghanistan to Western Europe via Pakistan and Iran.

Turkey seeks life term for Iraqi guard

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish prosecutor on Friday demanded life imprisonment for an Iraqi consular guard charged with killing two Turks during an anti-Saddam rally in the city last April, the Anatolian news agency said. Prosecutor Fazli Boztepe, who had earlier sought the death penalty for Ayad Falik Taha, said extenuating circumstances had emerged. Shots fired from an upper-storey window of the consulate on a crowd demonstrating against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein after his Gulf war defeat killed two men and injured another.

Jordanians, Palestinians step up coordination ahead of peace talks

Jordan: Negotiations have to tackle substantive issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber today leaves for Syria for talks with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Shara. The two ministers are to coordinate both countries' stands towards the next round of bilateral peace talks scheduled for 24 Feb. in Washington.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abu Jaber said his talks in Damascus would also touch on the need to crystallise a pan-Arab position towards the forthcoming peace talks in Washington. He said that he and Mr. Shara would also discuss the possibility of convening a meeting for the Arab countries involved in the talks in order to reach a common political ground ahead of the talks.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan had always been keen on coordinating stands and exchanging views on the various issues related to the peace process. He noted that his meeting with a Palestinian delegation Thursday was an expression of Jordan's interest in ensuring inter-Arab coordination and reaching a common position on all political developments.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that Jordan's policy towards the peace process was based on respecting

international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr. Abu Jaber added that Jordan's perception of the forthcoming round of peace talks is based on the guidelines spelled out by His Majesty King Hussein Thursday when the King chaired a meeting for the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks. The King said that talks should focus on issues of substance and steps to ensure implementation of U.N. resolutions.

Dr. Abu Jaber pointed out that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is continuing and that both sides were interested in pursuing this coordination to serve the best interests of the two peoples and the whole Arab Nation.

Earlier PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said that his visit to Jordan fell within the framework of the ongoing consultations between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships on the peace process.

In a statement to the press Thursday he added that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides would undertake an assessment

of the outcome of the first, second and third rounds of talks held in Madrid and Washington noting that such a process was essential at this stage because the Israelis have escalated oppression against the Palestinian people and intensified their settlement activity in the occupied territories.

The situation in the occupied territories demands that Arab positions be coordinated at the highest level with a view to raising the issue of Israeli settlement activity at the international level.

He added that there will be no peace as long as Israel was pressing ahead with its settlement building. Arab coordination, Mr. Abed Rabbo said, was continuing, but what was needed was a pan-Arab meeting, either for the countries directly involved in the peace process or for all Arab states.

He pointed out that contacts were underway among Arab countries with a view to ensuring closer coordination in the current stage. He emphasised the need for a unified Arab stand on the issue of settlements and called on Arab countries to do their best to influence the American stand regarding the \$10 billion loan



ROYAL REVIEW — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday called at the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The King then chaired a meeting for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks headed by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali and listened to a briefing on the outcome of multilateral and bilateral talks. King Hussein voiced satisfaction with the Jordanian delegation's performance at the peace talks and stressed the need for focusing during the forthcoming Washington bilateral talks on issues of substance such as the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and respect of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil. The King said these points constitute the basis of the Jordanian positions towards establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

guarantees Israel is seeking from the U.S. On the multilateral talks in Moscow, Mr. Abed Rabbo said there was a consensus that priority should be given to bilateral talks, which should result in the withdrawal of Israel from the West Bank and Gaza and the recognition of national Palestinian rights.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said there was a link between the Israeli settlement activity, the loan guarantees to Israel, the Israeli election campaign and the peace process. He stressed that there would be no progress in the bilateral unless the whole settlement activity was completely halted.

Palestinians seek common Arab position on immediate halt to settlement activity

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking a unified Arab negotiating position during the next round of bilateral talks backing Palestinian demands for an immediate halt to Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories, according to Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis.

The PLO hopes that the Arab governments, involved in the bilateral talks with Israel, will insist during the next round to be held in Washington on Jan. 24, that no further issues be discussed unless there was a cessation of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the officials said.

A top-level PLO delegation has already conferred with Egyptian and Jordanian officials on the issue. The delegation—including PLO Executive Committee Members Yasser Abed Rabbo, Suleiman Al Najab, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat adviser on the occupied territories affairs

Akram Haniyah — was expected to meet Syrian officials in Damascus on Monday.

On Thursday, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber received the Palestinian delegation, and Jordanian-Palestinian talks were expected to resume today.

The two sides did not reveal details of Thursday's talks, but well-informed sources said that both Jordan and the PLO agree on the urgent need for full Arab coordination at the next round of talks and for halting settlement building in the occupied territories.

The Arab side, however, has not yet drawn up a unified strategy on how to ensure that the issue of the settlements will be on top of the agenda for the next round and on what should be done in case Israel rejects to stop settlement activity. Both the U.S. and Israel, despite their recent disagreements, insist that the next round should mainly focus on Interim Self Government

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'Tel Aviv will not accept settlement freeze'

Israeli court orders Jerusalem Arab family to evacuate home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Israeli court has ordered an Arab family to give up its east Jerusalem home to Jews, fuelling controversy over Jewish settlement in the disputed city.

Members of the Ghuzlan family said on Friday the Jerusalem district court ruling two days before was a political move aimed at expanding settlement in the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan.

"We were shocked by the ruling. It is a political decision," said Amin Ibrahim Ghuzlan, 35. "We had no doubt whatsoever that the ruling would be in our favour, because we have all documents proving our ownership of the place," he said.

Government-backed Jewish settlers triggered international condemnation in December when they moved into five Arab houses

in Silwan, near Jerusalem's old city wall.

The Ghuzlan residence stands between two houses already occupied by settlers, who have vowed to take over more Arab property in Silwan, which they say is the site of the biblical city of David, the first capital of the Jews.

Lawyer Isaac Toussia Cohen said the court gave the Ghuzlan family 45 days to turn over the disputed house to the Jewish National Fund (JNF), a quasi-governmental development body. The JNF filed suit for the plot in 1967, claiming it had acquired the property from a Jewish land-purchase consortium which it said bought the land in 1923.

Mr. Ghuzlan said the family was considering appealing to the supreme court.

Mr. Toussia Cohen said he was surprised by the court ruling as documents provided by the family showed the house had belonged to them since the 1920s and was never registered to Jews.

He said Jordan, which controlled east Jerusalem, including Silwan, until 1967, always kept a record of Jewish-owned property in the office of the custodian of enemy property.

Palestinians accuse the settlers of using false documents and bending the law to acquire Arab property.

Israel said Friday it will not accept a freeze on new settlement housing in the occupied territories as a condition for receiving U.S. loan guarantees, a report in the New York Times said on

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Human Rights Commission denounces Israeli practices

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission on Friday urged Israel to stop expanding settlements in the occupied territories, but the United States had new support from Russia in resisting stronger attacks on the Jewish state.

The United States was the only delegation abstaining from the 45-0 vote on a European-sponsored resolution that declared the commission "gravely concerned at the large-scale establishment by the Israeli government of settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories."

It said Israel would improve the climate for Middle East peace talks if it stopped creating settlements, which it said were illegal and violated the Geneva Conventions on the protection of civilians in occupied lands.

The 53-member commission, which is dominated by Third World countries, also overrode objections of the United States in approving more strongly worded resolutions denouncing Israel.

While the Soviet Union had supported such Arab-led attacks on Israel as recently last year, Russia this year either abstained or voted no with the United States.

"The Russian delegation opposes any violation of human rights in the occupied territories," said Vacheslav Bachmin.

"But we consider that the resolutions really did not correspond to the realities taking place in the world today."

Bulgaria, another member of the former Soviet bloc, said it abstained or voted no in part because some of the resolutions

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Sudanese leader reshuffles cabinet

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's leader Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir has reshuffled his cabinet appointing three new ministers and assigning outgoing ones to his newly-formed parliament.

On Thursday night, Gen. Al Bashir appointed the governor of the state of Kordofan, Brigadier Faisal Medani Mukhtar, minister of health to replace Mohammad Shakir Al Saraj. He also named Abdul Sameh Omar justice minister instead of Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan.

The two outgoing ministers were given posts in the 300-member transitional parliament formed earlier on Thursday.

A third cabinet member, Energy and Mining Minister Col. Hassan Mohammad Dahwi was also

dismissed from his cabinet post and appointed to parliament. His successor has not been named yet.

The cabinet reshuffle occurred shortly after Gen. Al Bashir signed a decree naming the members of the transitional legislature, all of whom were appointed by him. All members of the ruling junta as well as cabinet ministers and state governors are members of the new body.

Former prominent member Col. Mohammad Amin Khalifa has been named parliament speaker. Gen. Al Bashir dismissed him from his cabinet post one day before giving him his new appointment. He had been the chief negotiator in the country's 9-year-old civil war.

Gen. Al Bashir announced last

month he would appoint a transitional legislature to replace the elected body he dissolved when he took power in a bloodless coup on June 30, 1989. He said it will prepare the way for an elected parliament.

The transitional parliament will hold its first meeting on Feb. 24. A series of announcements in the past few days have carried out the political changes Gen. Al Bashir promised on Jan. 1.

Sweeping economic reforms were also announced this month, including the abolition of an official exchange rate for Sudan's hugely overvalued currency.

The 300 members of the new transitional assembly include all members of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council except Gen. Al Bashir, the head of state.

FIS calls off Friday show with Algeria authorities

ALGIERS (R) — Heavy gunfire broke out in central Algiers but a show of strength by troops and tanks apparently stopped Muslim fundamentalists staging a banned "black Friday" march.

Gunmen attacked a police station, wounding several members of the security forces, on the heights of the Casbah, a fundamentalist stronghold, the Algerian news agency APS said.

A 15-minute burst of heavy gunfire echoed across the fundamentalist bastion of Bab Al Oued on the first Friday since a state of emergency was declared.

Shooting also erupted around Martyrs' square where the march, called by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was to end. Algiers radio said a child aged about six was wounded in an exchange of fire after FIS militants shot at troops.

Warning shots were heard in other areas of the capital as youths moved to form groups only to rapidly disperse. Several mosques were also shut for the first time in memory.

As Friday prayers ended, fundamentalists streamed away from mosques with no attempt to group for a march. Witnesses said some security forces started to withdraw.

APS said reported calm in towns outside Algiers.

The FIS, facing enforced dissolution, challenges the authority of Algeria's new rulers after the scrapping of an unfinished general election in which it had taken a landslide lead.

Its militants have also defied a ban on the use of mosques for spreading the FIS message, demanding an Islamic state, and denouncing the authorities.

Friday prayers erupted in violence last week. At least 50 people were killed and nearly 300 wounded two days of violence in scores of towns and cities.

Fresh trouble had been widely expected after the latest prayers on a day now called "black Friday" by many Algerians.

But local FIS leaders seemed divided.

One man, influential in Bab Al Oued, said: "If the FIS wants to pursue the struggle while respecting Sharia (Islamic law), it should cancel the march and announce Jihad (holy war)."

"Everybody will be prepared to die for something clear, but not for a march."

Some Algerians moved their children from likely flashpoints,

5 die in blast

ALGIERS (R) — Five people were killed in an explosion after a gunfight on Friday in a house in Algiers in which three security force members were wounded. Shooting erupted early on Friday after a night hunt in the Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, the Casbah — the ancient heart of the Algerian capital.

I'm moving them out for their safety. They'll be curious and want to look out if there is any shooting," said Mohammad, a resident of May 1st square where the march was to start.

The main unrest appeared to be in the Casbah. Youths threw up barricades across the main road in the warren of alleysways on a hill near Bab Al Oued.

Six policemen were killed on Monday in two ambushes in the Casbah, just hours after the authorities clamped a 12-month state of emergency.

Armoured vehicles rumbled through the streets on Friday after the sustained burst of automatic weapons fire in Bab Al Oued gave way to sporadic shooting.

Riot vans, doors open and police, pointing guns at pavements and buildings, raced towards the scene of the shooting.

Reuter correspondents saw soldiers crouched by walls and sheltered by stone benches in Martyrs' square near Bab Al Oued.

APS said a member of the security forces was wounded early on Friday. He was shot from a rooftop in the Casbah's Rue Kleber as commandos and police wound up a night search for arms.

An eerie silence, punctuated only by the occasional crack of a gun and the wail of sirens, hung over the Mediterranean seaport for most of the day.

Access to the city was strictly controlled. In the south at least seven vehicles mounted with machineguns controlled entry at Bir Mourad Rais. Four tanks and troops near the Chateau Neuf police barracks controlled entry from the west.

By evening, most security forces had pulled out of key points in Algiers.

But occasional shots rang out over the Casbah. Nervous motorists put cars into reverse, roaring back down streets.



Farouq Al Shara



Roland Dumas

France, Syria break ice

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Shara said Friday that a visit by his French counterpart, Roland Dumas, had broken the ice that marred Paris-Damascus ties.

"As for us, Syrians, I can say that Dumas' visit was successful by all measures and more than what some people had expected, especially after our crucial talks with the French guest," Mr. Shara said at a news conference just before Mr. Dumas' departure for home after a two-day visit.

"I hope that the visit will be a springboard for pushing forward bilateral relations and giving them a new momentum in the next years to come," Mr. Shara said at the joint news conference

with Mr. Dumas. Diplomats have said relations between Damascus and Syria have been strained in part by French demands for the extradition of Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner. Nazi hunters insist Mr. Brunner resides in Damascus, although the Syrians deny it.

After Mr. Dumas postponed a December visit to attend a European Community emergency meeting on the Soviet Union there was some speculation that the Brunner affair was linked to the delay.

The subject did not arise at the news conference, but Mr. Shara said: "The atmosphere between

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Libya to hold public hearing with suspects

ROME (AP) — With movement building for an embargo against Libya, Tripoli said Friday it will hold a public hearing with the two Libyans wanted by the United States and Britain for allegedly bombing Pan Am flight 103 in 1988.

Diplomats at the United Nations said Thursday that Washington, London and Paris have agreed on a resolution imposing an arms and air embargo on Libya until it hands over suspects in both the Pan Am case and the bombing of a French UTA flight over Africa in 1989.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said in an interview on French television Thursday that four Libyan officials suspected in the UTA case were willing to go to France to face charges for the bombing, which killed 170 people. But he said Libya wouldn't heed the U.S. and British demands for the surrender of the two men — considered Libyan intelligence agents by the West — who are wanted in the Pan Am

case. Col. Qadhafi denied the pair worked for the intelligence service.

JANA, Libya's official news agency, said in a dispatch from Tripoli Friday that the Libyan supreme court judge assigned to examine the Pan Am case will hold a public hearing on the investigation of the two suspects. The dispatch didn't say where or when the hearing would be held, nor what the hearing aimed to accomplish.

The judge is to hold "an open investigation session" with the two Libyans, JANA said.

No one answered the telephone at the Libyan justice ministry, and the hotel lodging a British lawyer who was assisting the two Libyans said the lawyer was no longer at the hotel.

Earlier in the week, the Washington Post quoted a former chief of intelligence for the U.S. CIA as saying sources told him the two suspects have been executed.

Red Cross urges world effort in Somalia 'tragedy'

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called on Friday for a massive and urgent world effort to save four to five million people in strife-torn Somalia from a "tragedy of huge proportions."

East African diplomats and relief agencies in Geneva said the situation in Somalia reflected a breakdown across the Horn of Africa with famine and anarchy spreading through the region.

ICRC Director of Operations Jean de Courten told a news conference three months of faction fighting in Somalia had brought the threat of mass starvation.

"A real tragedy of huge proportions is in the making. If we are to save the Somali people we need a major international effort through the United Nations ... but it has to be top priority, it cannot be delayed," Mr. de Courten said.

He was speaking a day after returning from Somalia, where a clan-based power struggle has raged since last November. It shows little sign of abating despite U.N.-sponsored peace talks.

"What we can do is only a drop in the ocean ... what we hope is that the United Nations can take over operationally inside Somalia," Mr. de Courten said.

He said the Swiss-run ICRC, which has several teams working in Somalia with the local Red Cross, estimated that 30,000 people had been killed or injured in Mogadishu, the capital.

The fighting broke out on Nov. 17 between forces loyal to interim President Mohammad Ali Mahdi and those supporting General Mohammed Farah Aided, both members of the United Somali Congress but belonging to different clans.

A report by the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on Friday said "Anarchy, conflict, disease and hunger" prevailed throughout the horn, making relief operations "a logistical nightmare."

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was rushing aid to northern Kenya to help with the flow of refugees — which the IFRC said was running at up to 1,000 a day — from the fighting in Somalia.

An official of another relief body said the refugee pressure, combined with drought and other problems, could increase a trend towards social breakdown in neighbouring countries, particularly Ethiopia.

"All the states in the region are going through a very difficult period, Kenya included. The ex-

tra pressure from refugees from Somalia could push the whole region into total disaster," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Relief agency sources said there were 510,000 Somali refugees in Ethiopia — itself struggling to cope with the return from Somalia of some 450,000 Ethiopians who took refuge there during the Ethiopian civil war.

In former French-ruled Djibouti to the north, where the government is facing a tribal insurrection, there are some 86,000 Somalis who have fled the conflict at home. And some 90,000 have arrived in Kenya, the sources said.

Mr. de Courten said he had seen fighting in Mogadishu intensify over the past few days as Gen. Aided's forces moved to extend their control.

He said that despite an agreement he had reached with Gen. Aided, the general's forces had ordered ICRC doctors and nurses out of an emergency hospital in the north of the city when they took over the area on Thursday.

The ICRC official said thousands of rural Somalis who had come into the capital in search of food had been trapped because of the fighting, which often involved young teenagers with sophisticated weapons.

Turkish police arrest alleged killers

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police said on Friday they had seized two left-wing extremists suspected of killing 12 people.

The arrests appeared to be a rare breakthrough in the hunt for members of Istanbul-based Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), Turkey's deadliest urban guerrilla group.

Istanbul police chief Mehmet Agar said a man, Metin Dikme, and a woman, Yasemin Okuyucu, had been captured on Thursday in a swoop on a flat in Kadikoy district on the city's Asian shore.

Mr. Agar, who is to be transferred from Istanbul to eastern Turkey next week, told reporters the couple had confessed to a series of thefts and murders between April 1990 and this month.

He did not say how the police had tracked down the pair. He identified their victims as Istanbul's chief state security court prosecutor, the city's deputy police chief, a retired general and British businessman Andrew Blake, as well as four policemen, a policewoman, two drivers and a bodyguard.

Mr. Blake, an insurance company executive, was shot dead at his Istanbul office in August. Diplomats said his name was known to have been on a Dev-Sol hit list. They speculated that his killers had mistaken him for an American.

Mr. Agar said Mr. Dikme and Ms. Okuyucu had named eight other alleged Dev-Sol assassins, including at least two killed in clashes last year and a man now serving a prison sentence for robbery.

The named Dev-Sol members were linked to four killings, including that of U.S. businessman John Gandy in Istanbul in March. Dev-Sol said he was murdered in protest at the Gulf war.

Another of their alleged victims was former senior Turkish intelligence official Hiram Abas, shot dead in September 1990.

Dev-Sol, active in the late 1970s when left-right violence killed more than 5,000 people, revived a decade later and began taking revenge on security officials it accused of torturing its members during three years of army rule from 1980 to 1983.

Lebanon appeals for help to cope with havoc of snowstorm

HIZZIRTA, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanon asked Friday for urgent relief supplies from international aid agencies to help cope with the havoc wreaked by 17 days of snowstorms that killed 28 people.

As the appeal was launched, residents in the eastern Bekaa valley's village of Hizzirta waited for a break in the storm to dig out the bodies of 13 people killed in an avalanche a week earlier.

Nine other bodies were pulled out Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz said in a statement he has instructed Lebanon's representative at international humanitarian agencies and Lebanese diplomats in Europe to relay his request for "emergency help."

The German embassy in Lebanon said in a statement it has informed the Beirut government it will send a donation of 2,000 blankets for families affected by the storm. It did not say when.

Iran sent a plane load of medicine and food via Damascus Friday, according to Beirut radio stations.

Interior Minister Sami Khatib and Elie Honein, head of the civil defence department, travelled to Hizzirta on Friday to survey the damage in a convoy that also delivered food and medical supplies.

They took the coastal highway to Syria, then crossed back into Lebanon to get to Hizzirta because the Beirut-Damascus highway was still blocked with snow.

The residents of the Shiite village were still in shock a week after the avalanche struck, burying three buildings at the bottom of the mountain.

"There was a flash of lightning and then successive rumbles of thunder that sounded like shelling," said Bassem Ahmed, 18, a student.

"We ran outside, but we couldn't see the buildings," added Mr. Ahmed. "They had been buried by the snow volcano."

Since then, the families of the victims who remain buried visit the sight of the disaster, when weather permits, sobbing as they look helplessly at the mountain of snow.

Saffiya Shoufan is still stunned speechless from the avalanche. Her 20-year-old son Ali had been visiting his fiancée in one of the buildings that was struck.

"She doesn't respond when we talk to her. All she wants now is to have the body of my brother removed from the snow," said Saffiya's other son, Kassem.

A dense fog shrouded the area as Mr. Khatib and Mr. Honein trudged to the scene of the disaster.

Mr. Khatib promised the villagers that ice cutters and bulldozers would be sent to the village as soon as the fog lifted and the Damascus-Beirut highway was opened.

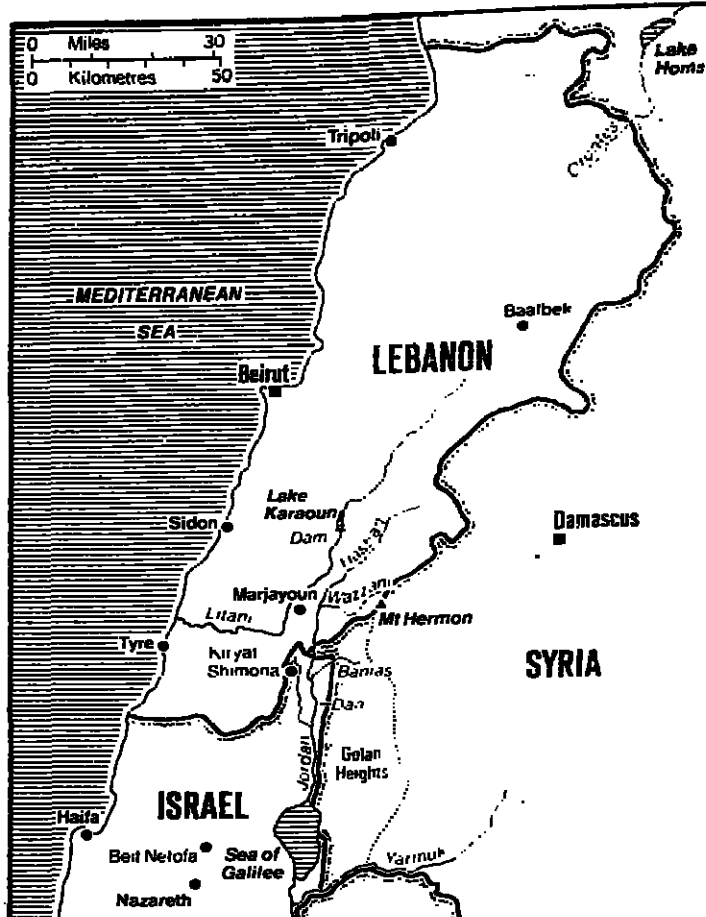
Mr. Honein said a geological survey of the area will be conducted before the digging starts so that the operation is carried out safely.

"We also want to make sure

that when the snow melts there won't be more disasters," added Mr. Honein. "If we find out that the melting snow will cause floods we will ask the villagers to evacuate their homes."

But the assurances failed to

allay the villagers' fears. "We go to bed in fear, we eat in fear, we go out in fear," said Hayat Diyab, 35, a housewife. "We don't know what to do. We've never been faced with such a situation before."



Denktash offers direct talks

BONN (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş on Friday invited Cyprus President George Vassiliou to meet him for face-to-face talks on the future of the divided island.

Mr. Denktaş, on a five-day visit to Germany, told reporters he was not in Bonn to seek recognition of the island's Turkish-Cypriot enclave, but

rather to voice his community's arguments in a possible settlement with Greek-Cypriots.

The United Nations is trying to reunite the island under a federal system of government. U.N. officials on Sunday ended a new round of separate talks on both sides of Nicosia, the divided capital.

But on Friday, Mr. Denktaş

offered to speak directly with the leader of the Greek-Cypriot community.

"I am inviting Mr. Vassiliou to meet me, to talk to me so that we can arrange for normalisation of certain affairs which would help the climate for the two communities to start talking of a political settlement," Mr. Denktaş said.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied its northern third in the wake of a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Mr. Denktaş, who met a senior German foreign ministry official, Helmut Schaefer, during his visit, is president of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which is recognised only by Turkey.

"I did not come here to look for recognition," he said. "One community cannot govern the other, one community cannot be the government of the whole island... this is the basis of the foundation of the Republic of Cyprus," he said.

"We are asking everyone concerned to tell the (Greek) Cypriots that they are not the government of Turkish Cypriots."

Turkish inflation hits 3-year high

ANKARA (R) — Consumer prices rose 78.5 per cent in Turkey in the past year, the highest 12-month figure the state Institute of Statistics has reported for 38 months.

Economists said the sharp rise was caused by December's public sector price hikes and lavish government spending before October's elections.

Inflation was 71.1 per cent for the year to January 1991 and 87.5 per cent in the year to November 1990.

State Minister Tansu Ciller said this month inflation would continue to rise in early 1992, but would begin to decline particularly in the second half of the year.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's coalition government, which came to power in November, aimed to lower the inflation rate to 42 per cent by end-1992.

Prices rose 9.4 per cent last month after a 4.4 per cent increase in December, the statistics institute said.

Transport and communications costs went up 95.9 per cent in the 12 months to Jan. 31 and food prices 90.4 per cent.

Massive campaign expands Israeli settlements in occupied lands

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

SHILO, Occupied West Bank — Rows of new red-roofed houses cascade down a hillside at Shilo, more than doubling the size of this militant Jewish settlement.

The 200 homes are a small part of the massive construction campaign launched by the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

By some estimates, it will raise the number of Jewish settlers in the war-torn lands from about 115,000 to 185,000 by the end of 1993.

In Shilo, 35 kilometres north of Jerusalem, new houses are seen as progress. But the U.S. administration views tracts springing up in the territories as manmade barriers to the embryonic Middle East peace process.

And they have put in jeopardy Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to help absorb a wave of about 350,000

Jews who have immigrated from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has asked Israel to freeze settlement building if it wants the guarantees. Last week, Mr. Baker offered a compromise allowing completion of units under way, but now a dispute has arisen over how many are actually being built.

The burgeoning settlements are contentious because they could undercut U.S.-sponsored peace talks in Washington based on Israel trading war-torn land for peace with the Arabs.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, are home to 1.7 million Palestinians who have waged a four-year revolt to end Israeli occupation and build their own state.

"The land is the essence of the conflict," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks. "If the Israelis con-

cate the land and populate it with settlers, they have unilaterally... negated the very foundations of the peace process."

But to Mr. Shamir and settlement leaders, the land is not negotiable and the settlements are way to ensure that it stays in Jewish hands.

"This represents our commitment to Israel as we understand it," said Rabbi Dov Berkovits, a Shilo resident. "It is our type of Zionism, the building of our country."

Mr. Shamir's government has underplayed how much housing was being built in the territories. However, now that the number of units being built has become a starting point for compromise, Israel is talking about higher figures.

Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Zalman Shoval has said 13,500 housing units are in progress, while Western diplomats speak of about 9,000 permanent units under way.

These figures go far beyond the

6,500 units that Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the chief advocate of settlement building, had announced Israel would build in 1991.

The figures also do not include housing in east Jerusalem, which the United States considers occupied land like the West Bank and Gaza, but which Israel declared annexed after its capture in 1967.

The cost of the new construction is a closely guarded secret, especially now that U.S. leaders are talking about subtracting one dollar from Israel's loan guarantees for each dollar that the government spends on settlements.

Peace Now Settlement Watch, a research arm of Israel's largest peace lobby, estimated last month that the government spent 2.5 billion shekels (\$1.1 billion) on homes, factories and roads in the territories last year.

As the debate drags out, construction goes on.

Peace Now says 17 new settlements have been started since the Shamir government came to power

in June 1990, some under the guise of new "neighbourhoods" of existing settlements. The largest settlements, such as Efrat south of Jerusalem and Be'er El to the north, have expanded across entire hilltops.

As settlement construction booms, Palestinians usually are denied building permits. Broad new roads leading to settlements bypass their villages to avoid confrontations.

Maale Adumim, about 10 kilometres east of Jerusalem, is the first settlement declared a city. It sits above a rocky valley where bedouins still pitch their tents and get their water in tanker trucks.

Contractors are building 800 apartments in Maale Adumim, which will add about 2,800 people to its population of 15,500. The settlement boasts a shopping mall, sports centre with swimming pool, elementary schools and 14 synagogues.

"People think of a settlement as a couple of trailers on a hill

surrounded by Arabs with a couple of guys outside with Uzis (submachine guns)," Mr. Greenberger said. "Thousands of towns in the United States aren't as established as this."

In Shilo, which is a fenced enclave with armed guards, Rabbi Berkovits also speaks of quality of life.

He sweeps his arm towards the hilly terrain around the community of 130 families and says: "It's beautiful. It's quiet. It's living out of town."

Rabbi Berkovits sees the settlements as fulfilling the Zionist dream of building a homeland from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River and as critical to blocking a Palestinian state.

"At bottom it's a question of security," he said. "To James Baker I would say, 'the basic interests of the state of Israel don't always coincide with the basic interests of America.'"

For us, the building of Israel — the survival of Israel — is paramount."

Shamir outpolls Labour — surveys

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would outpoll his main Labour Party rival if elections were held now, according to polls published Friday in Israeli newspapers.

They also indicate that former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the No. 2 in the Labour Party, would do better against Mr. Shamir than Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

The telephone surveys come more than four months before planned June 23 elections and confirm earlier polls indicating rising strength for Mr. Shamir and his rightist Likud bloc.

Also Friday, the interior ministry said that 3.4 million Israelis will be eligible to vote in this year's national elections.

They will include 500,000 eligible to vote for the first time, the ministry said. Many are immigrants from the former Soviet Union or young Israelis who have reached the age of 18.

The ministry said that each legislator selected to the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament, will represent 220,000 voters.

Israel radio said that 80 per cent of Israel's eligible voters usually participate in national elections.

A poll published by the Hebrew daily Maariv indicated that Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc would get 33 per cent of the vote in a contest against a Labour list headed by Mr. Rabin. Labour would get 32 per cent, and left-wing, right-wing, Arab and religious parties would get the balance.

In a contest against Mr. Peres, Mr. Shamir's Likud would get 36 per cent to Labour's 27 per cent, the poll showed.

In the 1988 election, Mr. Shamir's Likud earned 32 per cent of the vote, and Mr. Peres' Labour 30 per cent.

The survey was conducted in late January and early February.



Salman Rushdie

Rushdie were holding public readings, debates and lectures in most European countries and in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Writers Tom Stoppard, Guenter Grass and Martin Amis were to give a lecture in London on freedom of expression and British politicians planned to ask questions in parliament about the Rushdie affair.

Members of the European Parliament from all 12 European community states signed a resolution supporting Mr. Rushdie.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Tortues Ninja
18:30 La Famille Foutaine
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 American Funniest Home Videos
21:00 Encounter
21:30 In Search of the Past
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Angel of Death"

PRAYER TIMES

04:57 Fajr
06:15 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duha
11:50 Dhuhr
12:50 Asr
17:25 Maghrib
18:43 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish.
Tel. 810741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
The Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637480
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrosants Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Armenian Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 653326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and a slight rise in temperature is expected. Winds will be light and variable, turning at times to southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3 / 13
Aqaba 9 / 20
Dacris 1 / 14
Jordan Valley 10 / 19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 19 Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 67 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Babji Badr 849362
Dr. Yousef Samour 615648
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Saqr 791405
Dr. Jamil Marqaa 776046
Fires pharmacy 661912
Furudays pharmacy 776336
Al Asena pharmacy 670557
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsian pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Khalil (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yahya Al Tarif (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111

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(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Regulatory 623101
Abdullah Telephone Regaps 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816165
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsian 664171/4
Shamsian Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Munster Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Astrafich 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816165
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Paris, Damascus (AP)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
13:00 Sanaa (YV)

MARKET PRICES

Upward price in lbs per kg.

Apple (red) 700 / 700
Apple (yellow) 500 / 500
Banana 300 / 300
Banana (Mukammar) 550 / 550
Beans 540 / 540
Cabbage 700 / 600
Carrot 180 / 120
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumber (large) 220 / 160
Cucumber (small) 300 / 250
Eggplant 540 / 500
Garlic 250 / 200
Grapefruit 650 / 550
Lemon 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 300 / 250
Marrow (small) 300 / 250
Onion (dry) 500 / 400
Onion (green) 200 / 150
Orange 220 / 170
Pepper (hot) 400 / 350
Pepper (sweet) 1000 / 800
Potato 480 / 420
Radish 300 / 250
Sage 140 / 90
Spinach 600 / 500
Tomato 280 / 220



Minister Awad Khleifat meets Thursday with his Yemeni counterpart, Ahmad Al Kadi

Jordanian, Yemeni officials discuss increased cooperation in field of education

AMMAN (Petra) — Higher Education Minister Awad Khleifat Thursday met with his Yemeni counterpart, Ahmad Al Kadi, and discussed scopes of cooperation in scientific and cultural field.

Dr. Khleifat stressed the need for amending the cultural agreement concluded earlier between both countries and for finding the proper mechanism to implement its provisions.

Dr. Khleifat also said that the ministry was ready to increase the number of university seats and scholarships allocated to Yemeni students at Jordanian universities provided that such measures are reciprocated by the Yemeni side. The minister said that his ministry would accept Yemeni students in

the various community colleges in Jordan, including Amman University College for Applied Engineering, provided that they meet the requirements of admission at such colleges.

Dr. Kadi also reviewed scopes of cultural cooperation between both countries, saying that his ministry was willing to send a number of Yemeni teachers and students to pursue their higher education at Jordanian universities. Dr. Kadi called for forming joint supervisory bodies to supervise the master's thesis prepared by Yemeni students attending Yemeni universities and for sending Jordanian doctors to Yemen to benefit from their experiences in the areas of science, technology and scientific research.

Jordanian, Palestinian costume exhibition opens in Sweden

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Majda Ra'ad Ben Zaid Thursday opened the Jordanian and Palestinian costumes exhibition, held at Gottenburg Museum in Sweden.

The three-day exhibition includes a unique collection of Jordanian and Palestinian dresses designed by well-known Jordanian folkloric dress designer Widad Kassar.

The collection includes 200 samples of folkloric dresses in addition to jewellery and household souvenirs.

The opening ceremony included folk dances performed by some Jordanian and Palestinian girls living in Sweden. The opening ceremony was attended by former Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson and Jordan's honorary consul in Stockholm as well as the mayor of Gottenburg and the director of the museum.

The same collection of dresses by Mrs. Kassar had toured other parts of the world and were displayed in exhibitions held in Japan, Germany, Britain and Denmark.

Arabiyyat calls for a neutral press, outlines its role in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyyat Thursday met with members of the administrative committees of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and the Jordan Writers Association (JWA) and discussed with them issues of mutual interest.

Dr. Arabiyyat stressed the important role the media can play in rallying and uniting people and supplying them with the right and timely information on issues of interest to them.

He called on the media to strive for accuracy and maintain neutrality and objectivity when handling issues of interest to all citizens. He stressed the need for reflecting the genuine picture, when tackling common issues.

Dr. Arabiyyat emphasised the need for ongoing communication and contacts between writers and

journalists on the one hand and deputies on the other, saying that such an interaction is set to contribute to influencing meaningful social change.

At the end of the meeting, a debate took place about a number of issues, including the peace process, the laws on the formation of parties, the press and publication law, authors rights, the role of the House in activating and updating legislation, the lack of quorum during the House's sessions, the democratic march and public freedoms.

The meeting was attended by the House's first deputy speaker, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the presidents of both the JPA and the JWA.

Also Thursday, Dr. Arabiyyat met with a peace-delegation currently on a fact-finding mission in

Jordan. The delegation belongs to the U.S.-based World Council of Churches' Studies Centre.

Dr. Arabiyyat briefed the delegation on Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis, saying that it was meant to serve the interest of the whole Arab Nation and was not biased with any specific Arab party. He referred to the White Paper which Jordan released to explain its position during the Gulf crisis.

The House speaker praised the efforts made by the peace delegation and wished them success in their mission. He noted that Arabs and Muslims are not against peace, but are working for a genuine peace which is based on justice.

The delegation is currently collecting information on problems facing Palestinian refugees, particularly in the educational field.

Air pollutants, climatic changes discussed at conference, official says

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Meteorology Department Ali Abanda Thursday returned home from Geneva after taking part in a weeklong conference on climatic changes organised by a world body entrusted with discussing climatic changes.

A total of 100 experts from 70 different countries met in Geneva to discuss air pollution and its impact on climate and life on earth.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abanda said the rate of pollutants of air, particularly carbon dioxide are on the increase. He added that pollutant gases serve as plastic houses, which contribute to the warming of the atmosphere.

He said that he expected such gases will double around the end of the 21st century, adding that such an increase in the percentage of gases will lead to raising the temperature of the earth by a minimum of 2.5 or a maximum of 4 Celsius degrees, resulting in changes which will have their effect on the rainfall and climatic patterns around the globe.

He pointed out that the melting of ice in the poles and the over-

flow of the water from oceans will flood greater parts of the coasts and the small islands in the oceans with water. This in turn will have an adverse effect on semi-tropical countries like Jordan which might see an over evaporation of water and less rainfall, he said.

Dr. Abanda noted that Jordan had raised the issue of climatic changes which might happen at the regional level, saying that such changes might be more severe than changes resulting from pollutants such as smoke caused by burning oil wells.

Dr. Abanda added that he briefed the conference on the climatic changes in Jordan, along with the countries of the eastern Mediterranean, have witnessed this winter. He described this year's weather condition as violent and unprecedented. Dr. Abanda also said that Jordan would be entrusted with working out details and analysis of the weather conditions which prevailed in the region this season with a view to studying them within the context of weather and climatic changes and their relations to air pollution.

Italian film week starts

AMMAN — The Royal Cultural Centre in Amman will host the "8th Italian Film Week" in Jordan beginning today until February 20 as part of an agreement signed between Jordan and Italy.

The festival, which will feature Italian films with subtitles, will present six films. The festival is being held within the context of the cultural agreement signed between Jordan and Italy. It is being presented jointly by the Italian embassy in Amman and the Ministry of Culture.

The first film, to be shown today at 7:30 p.m., is "I Vitelloni" (Lazy Good for Nothing).

Also to be shown are "L'avventura" (The Adventure), "A ciascuno il suo" (Everyone to His Own), "Il posto" (The Job), "Vita da cani" (Dog's Life) and "Mani sulla città" (Hands on the City).

Entrance to the festival is free.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (centre) Thursday stops to chat with residents during a tour of Irbid Governorate (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan commends Jordanians for efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has commended cooperation and cohesion among Jordanian citizens during the snowstorms which hit Jordan during the past weeks and said that cooperation between people was a feature which has characterised Jordanian society in the past and the present and was manifested clearly during the bad weather conditions.

Prince Hassan, who toured several districts in Irbid Governorate, Thursday conveyed to citizens in areas he visited the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the tour which he concluded late Thursday by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi and Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar.

Prince Hassan said the continuation of cooperation among citizens as well as among public and official institutions was a basic requirement to overcome any problem that might arise. The Crown Prince stressed the

importance of the role of the youth in developing local communities and in shouldering national responsibilities, particularly in exceptional conditions such as those which Jordan has witnessed in the last few weeks.

Prince Hassan emphasised the importance of decentralisation in solving people's problems and called for removing any contradiction between the central authority and the administrative authorities in the districts and the governorates. He expressed hope that citizens would decide on the priorities of their areas to make it easier for the authorities to provide services to these areas and ultimately enhance the development process and democracy in the country.

Prince Hassan described the state budget as a loaf of bread "which is divided on all regions of the Kingdom according to their needs and priorities and according to a well-prepared, scientific plan with the objective of providing the best services to citizens."

The Prince called for preserv-

ing Jordan's achievements and called for taking into consideration the climatic conditions of the region and stressed the need to develop services provided to citizens.

The Crown Prince praised efforts exerted by the various departments and institutions' employees who are providing services to citizens in the best possible way.

Prince Hassan answered questions and queries by citizens who expressed their pride in the Hashemite leadership and voiced their joy over Prince Hassan's visit to their areas.

Prince Hassan commenced his tour early Thursday morning by visiting Rajeb town, then Jerash, Sakeb, Anjara, Balas, Safineh, Sakhneh, Fakhra, Al Majdal, Jazzaza, Al Zira's and Hamta, Kafraja and Borna.

He was briefed on the citizens' needs and demands as well as damages incurred on their properties and public utilities by snowstorms and the resulting floods and avalanches.

Officials tour South Shouneh area, inspect water damage

SOUTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — Balqa Governor Faleh Gharaibeh and Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Abdul

Aziz Wishah Thursday paid an inspection visit to the South Shouneh District where they inspected damage caused to the banana and vegetable farms and streets as a result of the heavy downpour of the last few days.

Mr. Gharaibeh and Dr. Wishah started their tour by a visit to South Shouneh District office where they met with District Governor Nayef Enajat, member of the Upper House of Parli-

ment Ahmad Saud Al Adwan as well as other government officials. They were briefed on the needs and demands of the citizens in the district, which included the allocation of housing units to beneficiaries.

The two officials were also briefed on the duties performed by the emergency teams during the heavy rainfall. They inspected Wadi Shueib and Kafraja dams.

Shakir Hasan Al Said: Searching for oneness with nature through paintings

By Ica Wabbbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The eye takes in the message, the senses get all involved. You feel like touching the surface to make sure it is not an illusion. It is not. And yet it is.

But this is exactly the aim, the philosophy of the painter, Shakir Hasan Al Said, an Iraqi whose art is more than a career; it is his raison d'être, his belief and his way of life.

The works, all mixed media on wood (few are on paper), at first glimpse are conveying a message by means of graffiti inscriptions on walls. Deeper, though, and especially after the artist explains his works, there is a more elevated connotation to the paintings, a symbolism that transcends time and space, goes back in history to times immemorial, to matter and spiritualism, pagan and Godly beliefs, order and chaos, desire to relate to and, maybe, dominate nature.

His work stretches over a period of 30 years, starting with the 1960s and reaching the contemporary turbulent era of Iraqi history. "Along with the effects of war on my work, there was a mental development," says Mr. Al Said, explaining how a new period and dimension stemmed from this experience, one in which he combined space and time.

Most of the works create the image of a wall (ochre or grey are the favourite background colours as they are the nearest to nature's hues) with cracks and holes etched, carved into the wood. It is invariably a dilapidated wall, victim of time or man, but one so realistically created that you want to touch, make sure it is not actually a piece of crumbling wall, and in front of which you will muse over the passage of time and the decay accompanying it.

The etching, Mr. Al Said explains, is his way of trying to realise a symbolism with his painting, live with and within it.

A most interesting explanation is provided by Mr. Al Said regarding his interpretation of the undimensional art, which he predominantly uses. "Technically, it expresses the rela-

tion between the artist and the environment; it is also a minimalist technique. Actually, on a canvas, there are two dimensions only. The third dimension does not exist; perspective creates it. I chose the one dimension and by contrasting two tonalities I created it: a line, which does not exist in reality, is made obvious to our senses."

He goes on explaining how he took on the one dimension and went beyond it. "I discovered the cracks in walls. Void. No dimension. I tried to draw my one dimension beyond (its meaning) through the means of the cracks. So I reached the non-dimension, the hole. It also means something before the material life."

Art Review

One pervading image, going back, as a symbol, to millennia before Christ, hinting to some pagan rituals and striking you with awe (the artist dissociated his art and thinking from any heathen doings, to make sure) is that of the magic square etched in the wall.

Mr. Al Said uses letters and the magic square, all, he says, tools of magicians. He is deeply involved in the relation between letters and numbers, an obscure art that long preceded the Sumerians, the Assyrians, the Greeks (after passing over the Nile civilisation), to which he finds a symbolic spiritualism and through which he could best intermingle the form and the content.

"By using the numerical symbol of the letters I come up with a new symbol, the content becomes form. By writing the names of the colours, without actually using the colours, I make content reside in the form."

The works use the linguistic medium to express themselves; colours, letters, figures are carrying their own message, but in the centre of the painting there is always nature. "I try to combine culture and nature," says the artist, who explains why, sometimes, he leaves portions of the wood unpainted, "naked as nature itself."



Two of the works on display by Shakir Hasan Al Said at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Art Gallery. The paintings will be on display till February 29.

A dynamic value is created by a group of three works (ink on paper) painted on both sides as if "trying to see behind" (a childhood dream come true?). The letters get into the texture of the painting, enabling the artist to "read into the splashes and blotches of the ink."

Space, numbers, letters, collage, cracks, watercolours, etchings, all are a representation of nature "as chaotic as

life itself." As to the size of the paintings, most on the big side, the erudite artist offers an apt explanation. "It is, I think (an expression of) the retreat of the human being in front of nature; it represents the relationship between man and nature; and, maybe, it is an attempt to dominate nature."

The exhibition, at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Art Gallery, will last till February 29.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of drawings by the French school's kindergarten children at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and water colour paintings by Tete Wegelius, Lucy Marto, Huda Bitar and Jennifer Bowker at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Spanish artist Soud Esheiri at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Shakir Hasan Al Said at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of photographs on Goethe-Forest, between Tafleeh and Shobak, at the Jordan University for Women.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Uprising in Cartoons" at the Royal Cultural Centre — opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m.
- ★ Arabic play entitled "Who's There?" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.
- ★ Lecture by the director of the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR), Dr. Pierre Bikai, on "ACOR's Projects in Jordan" at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.
- ★ Italian Film Week "I Vitelloni" (Lazy Good for Nothing) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Ingmar Bergman's film "Face to Face" at the Phoenix Art and Culture Gallery — 6 p.m.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Ugly face of 'democracy'

ISRAELI TREED hard to weasel itself out of responsibility for the death of Mustafa Akawi, the Palestinian who was detained on January 22 by Shin Bet, the Israeli secret police, while admittedly enjoying the best of health. Shin Bet's report about the death of the Palestinian prisoner spoke of heart attack as its principal cause while under interrogation even though there were weighty reports from the prisoner himself and his family that he had been subjected to ill treatment and torture during his two-week ordeal at the hands of the agents of the secret police. Then came the undisputed autopsy report, conducted by Dr. Michael Baden, a New York pathologist, which said the heart failure suffered by Akawi was precipitated by no other than the cruel treatment that he had received while in jail. There was no way left for Israel to refute the finding of this pathologist and another American doctor who examined the body, especially in view of the fact that Dr. Baden also serves as the director of forensic sciences for the New York state police. What is even more important by way of credentials is the fact that both doctors are neutral persons whose fairness and unbiased views not to mention their expertise are beyond reproach by any side.

Torturing Akawi, like torturing so many other Arabs in the past, tells a harrowing story about Israel and its claim to being part of the democratic world and an oasis of light in a sea of darkness, as it would like to tell the world on so many occasions. As a matter of fact, Israel's record on human rights is as dismal as one can find in the so-called underdeveloped countries of the world. Amnesty International's (AI) periodical reports describe Israel in no uncertain terms as a culprit in the exercise of systematic torture and ill treatment of Arab detainees. Even most annual reports by the U.S. State Department point the finger to Israel in a rather ritualistic manner as a state with below average human rights record. Yet Tel Aviv goes on to spread the big lie that the Jewish state is a true champion of democracy and human rights at a time when it continues to allege that the Arab World is a place where basic human rights are violated in a massive and systematic way.

Perhaps the case of Akawi could serve as an eye opener not only for that part of the world that continues to entertain high hopes and confidence in Israel as a beacon of hope in the Middle East but also for the democratic forces in Israel who have yet to learn all that needs to be learned about their "security" agencies. Against this backdrop, it is no longer shocking to hear that Palestinians are cruelly treated in Israeli prisons and detention centres. A couple of years ago, a former Mossad agent wrote "By Way of Deception" — a book about his disgust with the level that Mossad and like-minded Israeli clandestine organisations have sunk while conducting their missions. In that book, the author chronicled in great detail how Israeli secret agents are taught the art of treachery, deception and torture. Akawi's fate came only to corroborate what most independent observers have long suspected, namely that Israel is anything but a haven for human rights and democracy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said that the United States cannot be sincere in its claim that linking loan guarantees to Israel with the Jewish state's acceptance of the international legitimacy and its implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Washington has been sponsoring Israel's existence since its birth and has fostered Israel's economic, military and political power providing the Jews with all the means to consolidate their hold over Arab lands, said the paper. Above all, Washington has been financing all of Israel's wars against the Arabs and the settlement of Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab territories, it said. The United States had vetoed all U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israel's actions and never took a step towards forcing Israel to give up occupied land, added the paper. It said that the Americans have been coercing other nations into supporting Israel's stand inside or outside the United Nations framework, and lately it has forced the U.N. General Assembly to take back a decision equating Zionism with racism. No one can believe the United States when it says that with the loan guarantees to the Jewish state Washington can guarantee Israel's acceptance of the implementation of U.N. resolutions, continued the daily. The Americans are bluffing as they will no doubt continue to provide Israel with the loan guarantees and all the help it needs while at the same time continuing to offer the Arabs lip-service, bragging about its desire to see the Arab-Israeli conflict settled with in the framework of the Security Council resolutions, the paper said. It said that every day that passes helps the Arabs discover more and more about Washington's lies and double-faced standards.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily discussed the consequences of the late snowstorms hitting the country pointing the deficiencies in the infrastructure and the bad planning of public services projects. Bader Abdul Haq said that as soon as the snow hit the Kingdom citizens began to realise the weak state of the roads. Not a single street or road was saved from the damages caused by the snow and the rain, with the result that cars are not safe to run on any more and people fear for their life, said the writer. Abdul Haq said that members of the public have not been alerted to take extra precautions concerning their cars, water meters and other property though the government's various agencies could have done that easily. Had it not been for the Armed Forces and civil defence equipment and brave men, the civil departments could not have coped with the situation and the country's services could have been totally paralysed, the writer added. He said now that many cars are being sent to garages for repair after sustaining damage during the storm, the Vocational Training Corporation is not taking any steps towards ensuring that repair men are qualified to do the job, and many people have been complaining about being cheated. The writer expressed hope that both the Jordanian citizens and the government departments have benefited from the experience so as to deal with similar conditions during the winter season.

Third World becomes target in drug trade

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Gale Day, a top official at the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) well recalls a field trip to Pakistan back in 1984 when, he says, hardly any of the doctors he met had ever seen a heroin victim. "The few that they had seen were foreigners," said Mr. Day. "In the local population, heroin simply did not exist."

Today, Pakistan's medical corps is all too well acquainted with the drug and the devastating effects it has on people. In the space of just a few years, Pakistan has changed from a nation where drug taking was confined to a limited use of opium — mainly for medicinal purposes — to a country judged by some to have the worst heroin problem in the entire world. The Pakistani government has acknowledged that the number of heroin addicts probably exceeds one million. "It is a massive heroin problem," said Dr. Day, who heads the Vienna-based UNDCP's technical services. "It's very hard to cope with. It's urban, it's rural and it affects all branches of society."

Pakistan's drug problem is partly attributable to events in neighbouring opium-producing countries Afghanistan and Iran during the 1980s. Political upheavals, most notably the war in Afghanistan, forced drug traffickers to look for new sources of opium, and Pakistan was the obvious choice. As the fighting in Afghanistan intensified, heroin-refining laboratories were moved over the border into Pakistan. An estimated 200 rudimentary refineries are now thought to be operating in the Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur regions.

But Pakistan's heroin scourge is also symptomatic of a worrying trend which, say experts, has seen a sharp rise in the levels of drug abuse in the Third World and a blurring of the old distinctions between the countries that produce narcotics and the nations — usually in the industrialised West — that consume them. "The threat of drug abuse is now something that concerns both the developing countries and the industrialised countries," noted Professor Valentin Pokrovskij, president of the Academy of Medical Sciences in the former Soviet Union, who was in Italy recently for a major conference on drug abuse organised by the Vatican.

"Before, there were certain countries who produced drugs, and others who consumed them," said Dr. Maria Elena Andreotti, project officer at the Rome-based U.N. Inter-Regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and an expert on narcotics abuse. "Now we are seeing a more generalised pattern. For example, Burma has traditionally been a major producer of heroin, but it is now also a country with a large consumer problem. The

same thing has happened in Latin America with cocaine."

In Burma, officially known as Myanmar, the ruling military junta has been widely accused of condoning heroin trading. But now an explosion in the number of drug addicts has forced the government to seek help. "Burma accepts that it has problems," said Ms. Andreotti, who recently returned from a trip to that country to lay the foundations for a project aimed at saving Burma's youth. "Burma is very poor with immense social problems and children are at grave risk of being sucked in to become drug traffickers, child prostitutes and addicts." AIDS is spreading rapidly among drug addicts of all ages in Myanmar, added Ms. Andreotti.

The problems of Myanmar and Pakistan are being mirrored from the streets of Bogota to the towns of Thailand, India and even communist China, say U.N. officials. "Drug abuse has become a major problem in far too many developing countries and the list is growing all the time," said Dr. Day in Vienna. "It's one thing when you get a drug problem in a western country where there is a fairly well-functioning health and welfare system, but when it hits a hard-core Third World country it's even more serious. For example, Pakistan had zero defense against this type of thing."

The spread of drug addiction to the Third World is partly explained by what U.N. officials call "leakage." "Wherever drugs pass through, some of them remain behind for local consumption," said Ms. Andreotti. "There is also the fact that drug traffickers have every interest in establishing new markets." Africa, used as a transit zone for both heroin and cocaine, is a case in point. In a bid to vary routes and avoid detection, heroin traffickers hire Africans, often Nigerians, as couriers to shift heroin out of Pakistan and India, into Africa and on to destinations in Europe and North America.

Couriers are usually given around \$500 and their airfare, say drug enforcement officials. Many are caught, but in spite of the risks there is no shortage of Nigerians willing to chance a jail term in a western prison. "What started as a trickle has now turned into what is being called the Nigerian connection," said Mr. Day. The phenomenon is spreading fast, it seems, and in its wake, a new generation of drug addicts is being born. "Airports in almost every African country are now being used for transport — from Lusaka to Dalsala to Accra, you name it," said Mr. Day. "And where it (the drug) passes, heroin abuse follows. We are trying to design rehabilitation and education programmes to fight a problem that simply did not exist a few years ago."

Encouraged by the example of

their Asian counterparts, the South American cocaine barons have begun routing their drugs into Africa as a transit point before distribution in Europe. "We have not yet seen a cocaine abuse problem (in Africa), but history tells us we will," said Mr. Day. The heroin consumed in Africa is largely smoked, say officials, but they warn that trend could soon switch to intravenous use, which would gravely exacerbate the already critical AIDS situation in Africa. The HIV virus which causes the killer AIDS disease can be transmitted by infected needles.

The drugs consumed in Third World countries are almost always a cheaper version of the refined product sold in the industrialised world, say experts. "The product adapts itself to the market," Mr. Day noted. In South-east Asia, heroin prices are a fraction of the cost of those in London, Rome or New York, but so is the quality.

The same is true of cocaine. Peru, Bolivia and increasingly Brazil have grave problems with local consumption of a low-grade cocaine product called "basuko." Taken in cigarette form, "basuko" is made from the residue of coca-paste, mixed with substances used during drug conversion. "It's a terrible thing because it's the worst possible quality, but it sells for virtually nothing," said Ms. Andreotti. "They sell the good stuff abroad."

In China, cheap heroin is flooding over the Burmese border into the southwestern Yunnan province and spreading to the region's cities at what government officials say is an alarming rate. In its wake, the heroin leaves a trail of addicts and AIDS victims, a severe blow to the Peking government which had prided itself on all but stamping out the country's once endemic drug problem. Drug-taking took hold in China during the 18th and 19th centuries and reached a point where, in 1940, 20 million Chinese regularly smoked opium. A ruthless but highly effective campaign prescribed the death sentence for traffickers and total abstinence for addicts. Now China is trying to repeat the miracle, with public executions and other repressive methods, but it is proving an uphill task and the government has called on the U.N. to help. "We were surprised to be invited, but China is acknowledging its problem in a very open manner," said Mr. Day.

In China as elsewhere, the UNDCP wants, first of all, to prevent young people from becoming drug-users through education and public health campaigns, a deliberate policy which aims at depriving traffickers of their biggest asset — a captive market. The UNDCP currently devotes a quarter of its annual \$80 million budget to such programmes, almost all of them in the

developing world.

Ms. Andreotti has worked in the field of drug abuse for years and she sees a distinct difference between addicts in the industrialised world and those in the developing countries. In the Third World, she says, drug taking is not usually done for psychological or social reasons, as it is in the West; it can often be sparked off by something as basic as hunger. "If you're hungry and you smoke a heroin joint, it takes your mind off it," she said. "Drug-taking is often a search for the security you don't have, and in some countries, where insecurity is total, and you don't know whether you'll eat that day or not, it's even easier."

Chemical drugs are also posing a growing problem in the developing world, say experts. D-methamphetamine hydrochloride, better known as Ice, is increasingly popular among young people in Europe and North America. But it is produced mainly in Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines, and the principle of leakage ensures that it ensnares local youngsters along the way. Chemical drugs — stimulants, hallucinogens and depressants — are also widely produced in the Middle East, say drug enforcement officials.

Barbiturates, such as sleeping pills, are readily available in parts of eastern and southern Africa, often smuggled in from Asia. In Western Africa, amphetamines — stimulants — are more popular, especially in the Sahel. "A Sahel farmer, who is physically overworked by the environment, takes an amphetamine and finds he feels he has more energy," said Mr. Day. "He becomes addicted and at the same time he starts destroying his body, because he is using it to do more work than it can physically take."

Africa's drug problem is spreading so rapidly that U.N. experts are not sure it can be controlled. "We are working as hard as we can, and the governments have responded remarkably well," said Mr. Day. "But the jury is still out on whether we can stop it." One success story that gives some cause for hope is that of Mauritius, where a heroin epidemic exploded in the mid 1980s, reaching levels of abuse that were higher than that of the U.S.

The government turned to the UNDCP for help, and Mr. Day was sent to mastermind a plan which included establishing new laws, educational and health systems. "They got it under control," said Mr. Day. "For a government to be able to do something about an epidemic requires a massive mobilisation of public opinion and for society to reject drug-trafficking and abuse much as a healthy organism would reject a transplant," he added. "If that happens, the rest becomes almost easy" — World News Link.

You can't miss this candidate — he's already got the job

By Harry F. Rosenthal
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — And now, the candidate who needs no introduction.

He's the one in a 17-car motorcade, surrounded by bodyguards. He's the one with his unique entrance music, "Hail to the chief." The one with the blue, white and silver Jumbo Jet and a limousine waiting wherever he is.

He's the one with the wide, sometimes goofy grin, the overdone camaraderie, the clumsy effort to be one of the guys. Watch when he stands to speak as if by magic, the seal appears on the lectern to let you know you are listening to the president of the United States.

George Bush, who's made no secret that he wants a second term, could afford to wait until Wednesday to proclaim his candidacy, first in Washington and then in Concord, N.H.

Never mind the Texas fundraiser in October, or his telling an interviewer last month "I will do what I have to do to be reelected," or that he's already raised more than \$11 million and put his name on the ballot in 26 states.

Even on day one of his campaign, if the recognition of name were the game, the rest of the pack hasn't taken the field. Candidate George Bush is also President George Bush and there's no divorcing the two.

It is fact as well as disadvantage that Mr. Bush has to answer for the country's miserable economy. It is Mr. Bush who's been plagued by health problems that while explained away, still present nagging doubt. It is Mr. Bush who zoomed in popularity when America marched against Saddam Hussein, only to see it fade with an unfinished victory. Being president is also advancing in a campaign when there are five Democrats and a Republican arrayed against him, not to mention David Duke and other minor candidates.

While Paul Tsongas became the first announced candidate last April 30, Mr. Bush was proclaiming older Americans month. On Oct. 21, as Jerry Brown became a contender, Mr. Bush was talking national security inside the White House.

When Patrick J. Buchanan, his only Republican challenger in New Hampshire, entered the fray on Dec. 10, Mr. Bush had just returned from Pearl Harbor, where he commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack.

The others have tramped New Hampshire to win, place or show, but Mr. Bush so far has devoted only a single day and a total of six stops to the state.

Mr. Bush is one candidate with no need to pad his resume. He's a solid family man: married to Barbara nearly 47 years, four sons and a daughter, 12 grandchildren. He grew up in a privileged as well as political family. His father, Prescott Bush, was a senator from Connecticut. He's well educated: prepped at Andover (his nickname was Poppy), got his Bachelor's Degree in economics at Yale. He served in World War II as a navy pilot and was shot down. He has run a successful business, exploring for oil — and finding it.

He's a Republican Party war horse, working up from county chairman to convention delegate to unsuccessful Senate candidate, to two-term congressman, to National Party chairman. He cut his government teeth on a succession of jobs: ambassador to the United Nations, chief of the Liaison Office in Peking, CIA director and for eight years, vice president under Ronald Reagan.

The writer said that the continued American campaign on Iraq is designed to prevent Saddam Hussein from rebuilding his armed forces with which to threaten American interests in the Arab World. Therefore, it is quite reasonable to believe that the United States is preparing for yet another aggression on the Arab world.

The U.S. campaign against Iraq is interpreted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as a means for gaining votes for the coming presidential elections. George Bush is escalating the hostile campaign against Iraq at this moment in a desperate move to win the votes of the American public for another mandate at the White House, it said.

Turning to Libya, a columnist in Al Dostour said that the Americans, the French and the British should realise that any aggression on the Libyan people is to be regarded as one directed against all the Arabs. Mohammed Doudieh said that there can be no truth in Western claims about Libya's involvement in the plane crash over Scotland since no evidence has been dug up to prove this allegation.

Saleh Qallab, who writes for Al Dostour, said that some people do not believe that the Americans might launch an aggression on Libya, but there are indications that the aggression will soon come.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Settlements disregard international legitimacy, hinder peaceful solution to regional issues

Reviewed by Elia Nasralla

Jordanian dailies last week gave prominence to the peace process and the bilateral and multilateral talks, the question of guarantees to Israel to build settlements, the situation in Libya and Algeria and domestic issues.

Under the title "Why can't Israel's question be referred to the Security Council," Sawt Al Shaab daily said that as Israel continues to disregard the international legitimacy and refuses to return occupied lands to the Palestinians, it is quite reasonable for all nations to demand that the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's stand be referred to the Security Council to deal with it.

The paper said that as long as Washington refuses to exercise any form of pressure on Israel to force it to give up occupied land and as long as Israel refuses to exchange land for peace with the Arabs, nothing can be expected from any peace talks between the Arabs and the Israelis.

In view of the coming talks in Washington, a writer in Al Dostour called for more serious coordination between the Arab parties.

Taher Al Udwan said that it is good that the Jordanians and the Palestinians are coordinating their efforts in this regard, coordination among the Arab

parties to the talks is a national responsibility since such coordination is bound to give the Arabs more power in the negotiating process.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that ever since Washington announced the peace process which it is now sponsoring, Israel has been placing one obstacle after another in the path of achieving peace.

Rafiq Al Basha said that Israel's main obstacle is the building of Jewish settlements on Arab land and the United States is doing nothing to stop such illegal practice.

The writer said that the United States is not, as is reported, refusing to grant Israel guarantees for funds to build settlements, but it is rather delaying the guarantees for a while, something which can be no means force Israel to comply with the will of the world community.

Al Dostour said the United States has been declaring to the world that it considers the settlements as an obstacle to peace, but has also been negotiating with Israel over the possibility of the latter not building more settlements after completing those under construction.

The paper said that if Washington were really sincere, it would ask Israel to terminate its settlement programme immediately since it is

unlawful and in violation of international principles.

Sawt Al Shaab demanded that the Jewish settlement programme, undertaken by the Shamir government, be placed on the agenda of the coming talks.

The paper said that Secretary of State James Baker's request to the Palestinians not to link the settlement issue with the peace talks is unreasonable. The settlements question is very serious and could undermine the whole peace process, said the paper.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that the United States and the Western countries in general, which planted Israel in the midst of the Arab Nation, are in need of this state, contrary to what many people believe, the Israeli role is now obsolete due to the disappearance of the communist threat.

Ahmad Dhiban said that the Israeli state was planted originally in order to protect imperialist countries' interests in the Arab region. The writer said that as long as the Arabs possess oil wealth, the Western Nations, led by the United States, will do anything in their power to strengthen the Jewish state and help it continue to shoulder its role in serving Western interests.

Referring to the situation in Algeria, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily warned against blood-

shed there and said that violence can only complicate matters for the government and the National Islamic Front.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi said that the state of emergency in Algeria can by no means prevent the violence in the absence of dialogue on the future of democracy in the country. The writer said that unless the two sides take steps towards ending the current state of affairs peacefully, the country could be facing a civil war.

Another columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the new leader in Algeria, Mohammad Badiaf, started his mandate by appealing for calm and promising to deal with the internal differences in fairness and in a manner to safeguard national interests. The National Islamic Front did not reciprocate this move, but preferred acts of violence.

The front has been escalating the tense situation by calling on the armed forces to mutiny against the government and urging the front's youth to confront the troops by force, according to Mohammad Kharroub. The writer said that any confrontation would make the Algerian people suffer and no party can come out victorious.

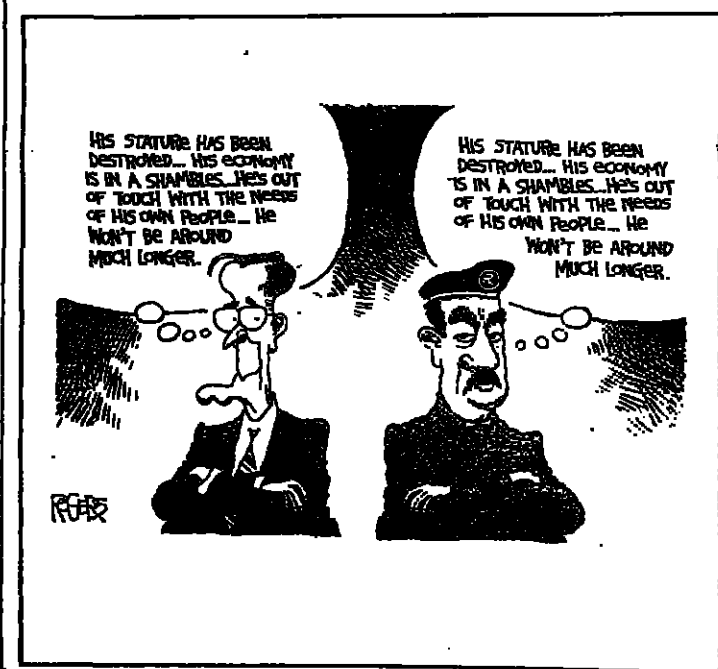
A columnist in Al Dostour said that by reverting to confrontation rather than to negotiation, the Algerian government and the Islamic Front

have paved the way for a civil war. The resort to violence is bound to take the Algerians from the state of peace and security they have been enjoying to a state of chaos while the country continues to suffer from poverty, said Taher Al Udwan. At the same time, it should be noted that the chaos is bound to open the door wide for foreign intervention.

On the situation in Iraq and America's continued hostile campaigns against it, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that more than one year after the start of the Gulf war has passed, but the U.S.-led campaign against Saddam Hussein is not abating.

It seems that the campaign, the war, the sanctions and all the sufferings of the Iraqi people were caused not for the sake of liberating Kuwait but to destabilise the Iraqi leadership, said Saleh Ekor. For this reason, the writer said, it is quite reasonable to think that the U.S. might be launching a fresh aggression on Iraq soon with the purpose of getting rid of the present Iraqi leader.

This view is supported by Ahmad Dhiban, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, who said that all that the Americans used to brag about the international legitimacy, regarding Kuwait, proved to be totally built on lies.



كنا مت الامل

Palestinians seek common Arab position

(Continued from page 1)

Arrangements (ISGA). Although an agreement has not been reached yet, there is consensus that the Arab side can no longer accept Israeli attempts to derail the negotiations from substantive issues.

At a meeting with members of the cabinet and Jordan's negotiating team to the bilateral talks on Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein made it clear that Jordan believes it was time that the peace talks began to address an end to Israel's occupation of Arab territories through the implementation of the pertinent United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The King stressed the importance of focusing on substantive issues through finding a mechanism to implement the Security Council resolutions regarding an Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

The statements, carried by the Jordan news agency, Petra, was viewed by analysts as an indication that Jordan was becoming increasingly frustrated with Israeli attempts to avoid the issue and buy time in the course of negotiations.

Jordan is backing its position with diplomatic moves to coordinate Arab stands prior to the Washington talks (see separate story on this page).

The King's statement, Jordan's diplomatic moves and the PLO's campaign, according to analysts, could signal the beginning of an intensified Arab effort to ensure that the next round of bilateral talks will mainly address the issue of Israeli settlements and other substantive issues.

Despite the differences between the U.S. and Israel over the settlements, Arab governments and the PLO are still concerned that Israel could get away with continuing its settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories.

Israel rejected on Friday a cessation to the building of settlements in return for \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the U.S. government.

But well-informed political observers say that Arab governments and the PLO still fear that an American-Israeli compromise would enable Israel to continue building houses which are under construction or those which the Israeli government has already signed contracts to start.

Human Rights commission denounces Israel

(Continued from page 1)

failed to note that Middle East peace talks were underway.

The other resolutions:

— Denounced Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights occupied by Syria in 1967 and "Israel's flagrant and persistent violation of human rights in the Syrian and other (occupied) Arab territories." Approved 31-2, with the United States casting the no vote. Seventeen nations, including Russia, Japan, Latin American and European countries, abstained.

— Condemned Israel's policy against the intifada and affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation by all means. Russia was among the 16 nations including the United States voting against the resolution. Three countries abstained.

— Accused Israel of "perpetrating crimes of torture against Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons and concentration camps." Approved 31-1 with the United States voting

against. Russia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Japan and West European nations were among the 17 abstentions.

— Reiterated "its grave concern at the military, economic and political support given by some states to Israel, which encourages and supports Israel in its aggressive and expansionist policies." Approved 31-2, with Uruguay joining the United States in opposition. Russia abstained, but said it would have voted against a paragraph critical of the practice of allowing Jews from the former Soviet Union to emigrate had a separate ballot been allowed.

Israeli court orders

(Continued from page 1)

Friday. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's chief of staff, in an interview published on Friday under an Jerusalem dateline, was optimistic a formula could be found for Israel to get the help it wanted to absorb immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Yossi Ben-Aharon said, however, that what that formula might be was still unclear.

The United States has told Israel it wants a halt to new housing construction in all the occupied territories in exchange for loan guarantees of \$10 billion. It sees additional construction as an obstacle to peace.

"I think it is fair and correct to say that although the United States has a clear-cut policy against settlements, it realizes that this issue pertains to a matter of principle for this (Israeli) government," Mr. Ben-Aharon said in the interview.

New EC rules stir old fears about loss of individuality

By Sydney Rubin
The Associated Press

ST. MARTIN D'ABLOIS, FRANCE — Jean-Pierre Pain wonders why bureaucrats who would never mess with monuments are so intent on meddling with his Brie.

"We have to defend our heritage," he said, standing in a spotless tiled room filled with the pale, pungent cheeses. "Our cheese is like Notre Dame or Versailles. It's an important part of French history and culture that deserves to be preserved."

Mr. Pain's grandfather founded the Pain-Jesson dairy, one of a dozen that makes the creamy, unpasteurized Brie de Meaux. Like many other Frenchmen, he worries that European Economic unity at the end of this year will bring a crushing uniformity to products that are delicious, aromatic and unique to France.

The cheese conflict began when European Community bureaucrats in Brussels sought to ban all unpasteurized cheese for health reasons. The French cheese lobby, representing makers of 400 types, rose in defense of Brie, Camembert, Meunier, Pont L'Eveque and others made from raw milk.

"Nobody has ever gotten sick from eating my cheese," said Mr. Pain, who has a healthy pink glow he attributes to unpasteurized Brie and Bordeaux wine. He is president of the Interprofessional

Syria, France

(Continued from page 1) Syria and France has much improved, this being evidenced by the improvement of climate in this last day of Dumas' visit. You notice that there are no clouds in the skies this day.

"By saying this," Mr. Shara said: "I am responding to what some people thought there were clouds in the two countries' ties."

Union for the Defense of Brie de Meaux.

New directives on everything from cheese to condoms have people in several EC countries railing at the so-called Eurocrats.

"The European Community has become obsessed with interfering in Areas which are none of their business... meddling without constitutional constraint wherever it sees fit," the Sunday Times of London groused in November.

Britain has repelled assaults on the flavoured potato chip, the English sausage and the kipper.

EC regulations would ban belly, flank, head and cheek meat, common ingredients in English sausage. At the height of the excitement, a headline in the Daily Telegraph read: "Hands off our bangers, we like them lousy."

The regulation process works this way, with cheese and sausage as examples:

Groups of bureaucrats representing all 12 EC members draft

the directives. Northern countries that do not make or consume unpasteurized cheese, for instance, team up to set the standard. Countries that do — France, Greece, Italy and Spain — are forced to negotiate.

One result of the negotiations might be looser rules on 'sausages in return for allowing raw-milk cheese.

Critics see many rules purportedly adopted for health reasons as devices for restricting trade.

"Most concerns are a lot of rubbish and have more to do with preventing competition than protecting the consumer," said Jerry Kiely, the EC spokesman on agriculture, who tries to remain neutral. "The health that many governments are worried about is the health of their economies."

In a new year's address, President Francois Mitterrand of France put it this way: "A certain strict moral attitude of the North has had a tendency to impose its

rules on the good life of the South. I don't like being stopped from eating what I like."

Mr. Kiely said revised directives affecting French cheese, expected in about four months, would strike a balance between hygiene and taste to protect both consumer and producer. Raw-milk cheeses are about 10 per cent of total production.

The condom controversy began when a German EC commissioner prepared a directive on "passive medical devices" that included a limit on condom size.

All members agreed an unstretched condom should be 16 centimetres long, but width was a problem. Italy proposed 54 millimetres, but EC bureaucrats insisted on 55 millimetres.

Eurocrats also took on Spanish drinking habits.

They outlawed home-brewing of orujo, made from flinty white wine in stills over wood fires in rural Galicia, Spain, deeming the process unsanitary. Commercial production of orujo is permitted.

Randa Habib's Corner

Planning is the key

I HESITATED a lot before taking up again this weekly corner in the Jordan Times which I had abandoned, for various reasons, for the past three years. There were times when I felt the urge to start writing again, to comment on a myriad of events in the Kingdom and worldwide. But many things kept me at bay, away from this corner and far from my readers. Until today, when I decided to say something about our long-awaited guest, snow.

We, Jordanians, had yearned for years to witness enough rainfall over our dry harvests and empty water basins. Of all the fears that haunted us, potential thirst figured high in our future uncertainties. But finally snow fell over our plains and mountains. Moreover, this "white general", made his long-sought visits to this part of the world so frequent as to hit a record high four times this season.

True, we have for long looked forward to receiving enough rainfall to save our crops and wash our souls, but we never anticipated such a long, "soaky" stay in our midst. First, it was termed a snow "breeze", then "snowfall" and "snowstorm". Before long, it is bound to turn into a snow "calamity" if we don't paint a realistic, down-to-earth picture of weather changes and their subsequent effects on our daily life, be it positive or negative. In fact, we don't have to hide our heads in the sand-cops under snow — and the gravity of the situation prompts us to handle things more profoundly.

The local media seemed to have forgotten all damage caused by snow and steered its information machine towards highlighting the benefits of turning the land white. I am not neglecting the good effects of snow on agriculture and water reservoirs, yet we seem to forget that agriculture produce in the Jordan Valley perished, people died, houses flooded and our day to day life was paralysed interminably.

We should have made plans to collect the overflow of rain which more than doubled, reaching, hitherto, in certain parts up to 400 millimetres. But, never too late for the government which issued directives to build new dams to collect the "wasted" floods. We hope that these directives will materialise soon so that next year if snow rears its white head again, Jordanians will not say it "overwhelmed its stay".

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Jordan Times' JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Hajiri wins Qatar International Rally

DOHA (J.T.) — Saeed Al Hajiri and Mike Corner Friday won the Qatar International Rally, round one of the 1992 Middle East Rally Championship.

Hajiri, in a Toyota Celica GT4, finished with a time of 3:01:26. He was followed by Mamdouh Khayat and Dave Nicholson in a Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4 with a time of 3:07:16 in second place, and local hero Sheikh Fahd Ibn Mubarak and Tom Steele in a Mitsubishi Galant VR4 with a time of 3:07:28 in third place.

Two of three participating Jordanian teams finished the rally.

Marwan Abu Hamad and Khaled Zakaria, in a Toyota Celica, finished 18th in the overall standing with a time of 4:37:35. They came in third in their Group N4. Remon Pfeiffer and Fawzi Shukair, in a Toyota Corolla, finished 20th in the overall standing.

Majdi Al Jallad and Marwan Lolas, in a Toyota Celica GT, had to withdraw in the sixth stage of the rally due to technical failure.

Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) Director Derek Ledger, who was supervising the Qatar Rally on behalf of the International Auto Sports Federation (FISA), said the rally was fairly organized despite a few snags.

Mr. Ledger told Al Rai Arabic daily and the Jordan Times that he already approached a

number of rally teams from Ireland, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Cyprus, Turkey and Lebanon to take part in the Jordan International Rally which will be held in May.

Saudi Arabia's top driver Mamdouh Khayat was Al Hajiri's closest challenger, but the Jeddah driver gradually lost touch with his rival as the event progressed, although he did gain valuable Middle East Rally Championship points.

He drove a Sutton Sierra Cosworth 4x4 for the second year running and, as Hajiri looks doubtful to tackle this year's series, Khayat may well emerge as the favourite to take the title.

Ten overseas drivers had entered the event in homologated cars: Czechoslovakia's Pavel Hartle left the fray with engine failure on the 11th stage, England's Stuart Coupe retired his Lancia with gearbox damage and John Morton rolled his Delta Integrales and put both he and Stephen McAuley in hospital with minor injuries. Ed Colton, from Dublin, was the top overseas driver in ninth place with his Peugeot 205 GTI.

Of the 36 starters, only 21 cars survived the route and returned to the Ramada Renaissance Hotel finish line in Doha.

The prize giving ceremony will be held Saturday and will be attended by the Jordanian Ambassador to Qatar, Mr. Saud Al Qadi.



Martina Navratilova

Graf rolls on in Chicago Slims

CHICAGO (AP) — Steffi Graf showed why she's the top seed, routing Manon Bollegraf of Holland 6-2, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Chicago tournament.

Graf controlled the tempo and dazzled Bollegraf with serves up to 103 mph (165 kph) and an assortment of backhand and forehand slices.

Graf needed six games to break Bollegraf's serve, finally pulling it off when Bollegraf double-faulted.

Bollegraf double-faulted again in the eighth game, losing the set. Her fifth double fault cost her the fourth game in the second set, putting her behind, 3-1. She failed to hold serve again in game six with still another double fault and a poor return.

Graf finished Bollegraf off with her fourth ace, winning in just 49 minutes.

"I asked before the game what was the fastest serve so far," Graf said. "When I was told it was 104 mph (166.5 kph), I tried to better it but fell just one point off."

The short match could hurt Graf, who has not played a tournament since the Slims Championships in November.

"It doesn't matter if I play (Amy) Frazier or Jana Novotna Saturday, I'll have a really tough

time," she said. Frazier and Novotna of Czechoslovakia play their quarterfinal match Friday, so do McNeil and Zina Garrison.

In second-round action, Thursday, sixth-seeded Lori McNeil held on for a 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2 victory over Ginger Helgeson in 2 hours, 30 minutes.

Frazier, the seventh seed, overcame Debbie Graham's powerful serve and ground strokes, rallying for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

McNeil won only 42 of 76 first serve points (55 per cent) but had help from Helgeson's repeated double faults and unforced errors.

Helgeson staved off defeat with a second set 7-5 tiebreaker win but failed to hold serve in the first game of the final set.

Frazier had trouble with Graham's 104 mph serve throughout the 1-hour, 43-minute match but capitalized on seven double faults.

"She really had me groping with her big serve, and I really never solved it," said Frazier. But Frazier stayed back, and Graham couldn't get her drop shot to stay inbounds.

Second-seeded Martina Navratilova's effective passing shots helped her outlast doubles partner Pam Shriver 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) in

Virginia Slims of Chicago quarterfinals.

Shriver's defeat marked the 28th consecutive time she has lost to Navratilova since the 1982 U.S. Open and 38th time in 41 meetings.

Shriver won just 12 points in the opening set but broke Navratilova in the first game of the second set.

Navratilova, gaining 19 points off passing shots in the 81-minute match, finally broke Shriver in the eighth game for a 4-1 tie.

But Shriver broke Navratilova back in the ninth game, only to lose her serve in the 12th game, requiring a 12-point tiebreaker.

Navratilova won the tiebreaker, 7-2, taking the match when Shriver dinked a ball into the net.

"I was really hoping for a third set because I was getting into the match with my serve," Shriver said.

But Navratilova never has taken Shriver for granted, adding, "sure, we're good friends, and we know each other's game well, too well almost."

"When her serves are going in, she's really tough," Navratilova added. "After a while, I was trying to return like she does, and I got into trouble."

Old stuff is good stuff for Petrenko

ALBANYVILLE, France (AP) — The old stuff was the good stuff for the unified Team's Viktor Petrenko. Again.

Petrenko led after Thursday night's original program, followed by Petr Barna of Czechoslovakia, the European champion. American Paul Wylie, meanwhile, turned in the surprise performance to hold third place and keep U.S. medal hopes alive.

"Actually, I'm psyched," said Wylie. "I felt I had to prove myself. Everyone has said from here is just the frosting on the cake. I decided I really like frosting."

Three-time world champions Kurt Browning was hurt by a faulty landing on his triple axel and placed fourth. His fall cost him dearly and he must win Saturday night's free skate and have Petrenko finish below second to take Canada's first men's figure skating Olympic gold.

"I went up into the jump and it felt great. I wouldn't have changed it," Browning said. "But I have a habit of dropping the right arm when I land. I was down so fast I didn't know what happened."

Petrenko, using the same

routine that was judged best at the last two World Championships, was masterful. The 22-year-old Ukrainian was first with all nine judges and put him

self in excellent position to win the first Olympic men's figure skating gold for the Unified Team of former Soviet republics.

"I'm nervous and I'm going home," Petrenko said, refusing to meet with the media.

U.S. champion Christopher Bowman skated a slow and uninspiring routine, touching his hand to the ice in the midst of his triple axel-double toe loop combination. He was in seventh place.

Todd Eldridge, attempting to overcome back problems that sidelined him for the U.S. nationals, struggled to wind up ninth. He fell as he landed on his double axel.

Petrenko has slumped since last year's worlds, even dropping to third in the final Soviet Championships in December.

The 1988 Olympic bronze medalist hit a huge triple axel-triple toe loop combination and a big triple lutz. After getting the toughest triples out of the way, Petrenko displayed excellent spins.

Barna, whose victory in the

original programme at last month's European Championships helped him to the overall title, was superb. His jumps were flawless, although he did only a triple lutz-triple toe combination.

His footwork also was excellent and he received two 5.9s for artistry.

"I think I can all myself the master of original programme," said Barna. "This is my 12th competition in a row where I skated a clean original."

Wylie, 10th in the 1988 Olympics and the self-described "old man" of the U.S. team at 27, leaped in the air when he finished his sparkling programme featuring the most intricate step sequences of the night. He received marks as high as 5.8.

Soviet champion Alexei Urmanov hit all of his jumps, but a slip on the footwork cost him slightly and he stood fifth heading into Saturday night's free skate.

Top Russian biathlete is in intensive care

ALBANYVILLE (R) — Top Russian biathlete Sergei Tarasov is in intensive care with a mystery infection, the medical chief at the Winter Olympics said Friday.

Dr. Patrick Schamasch said Tarasov was taken to hospital in Albanyville last Friday and moved the next day to an intensive care unit at Chamberg City Hospital, where his condition had since improved.

Doctors at Chamberg said Tarasov's life was now out of danger.

"Tests show that he was suffering from a grave general infectious syndrome," Dr. Schamasch told Reuters. "As for what caused it, I can't tell you because we don't know."

Dr. Schamasch described as speculation a French newspaper report that the Russian may have been infected as a result of blood doping.

Blood doping, in which blood is drawn off and restored to the body just before competition to enhance the circulation of oxygen

to the muscles, is known to have been used by athletes to improve performance.

Dr. Schamasch said the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Medical Commission had discussed Tarasov's illness as part of routine monitoring of athletes admitted to hospital the games. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch was also aware of the case.

Tarasov, who will be 27 Saturday, won silver medals in the 20 km biathlon and the 4x7.5 km relay at last year's World Championships.

A Commonwealth of Independent States team official said he was the only athlete in the CIS squad suffering from the infection.

IOC Medical Commission chief Prince Alexandre de Merode said on the eve of the games that experimental blood tests might be conducted in Albanyville to detect the use of Epo, the drug employed as a substitute for blood doping.

Connors eliminates Stich in Memphis

MEMPHIS (AP) — Jimmy Connors fashioned a triumph of guile over power Thursday night as he surprised Michael Stich 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 eliminating the world's No. 3 player from the \$780,000 Federal Express International.

Stich, the reigning Wimbledon champion and the tournament's top seed, found a formidable foe in Connors, winner of eight Grand Slam events.

Stich, who recorded 25 aces during the 2-hour, 46-minute match, appeared to have the answer to Connors' rejuvenated play in his powerful serve.

Connors would take a point with a luring backhand winner. Stich would counter with an ace.

But the decisive shots were a pair of unforced errors by Stich — a long return of Connors' first serve on the decisive point in the second-set tiebreaker and a back-

hand return of serve that sailed wide at match point.

"I'm getting aced three times a game and all I wanted to do was hang in there, like I did, and hope that maybe he'll make a mistake," said Connors, a four-time winner at Memphis and currently ranked 56th by the ATP.

The victory sent Connors into a quarterfinal matchup with Aaron Krickstein, who eliminated Todd Woodbridge 6-2, 6-2.

The Netherlands' Paul Haarhuis, the No. 13 seed, added to the day's upset toll, eliminating No. 3 seed David Wheaton 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5, and No. 14 seed Malivi Washington pushed No. 4 Michael Chang from the field with a 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) win.

Amos Mansdorf advanced with a 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-1) victory over sixth-seeded Brad Gilbert and South African Wayne Ferreira,

the No. 7 seed, eliminated No. 9 Richey Reneberg 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

In a match between unseeded players, Michiel Schapers defeated Jason Stoltenberg 6-1, 6-2. Pete Sampras, the No. 2 seed, made quick work of Canadian Grant Connell, advancing with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 victory.

Connors said he could see the pressure begin to effect Stich as the match progressed.

"It's tough out there for those young guys just like it was when (Ken) Rosewall was out there 20 years ago. He (Stich) is the Wimbledon champion and nobody wants to lose to an old guy," said Connors.

Haarhuis, ranked 41st, pulled his service game together late against Wheaton, ranked 15th by the ATP.

Haarhuis used a pair of aces to win game 10 and level the match

at 5-5 before breaking Wheaton for the second time in the set.

Wheaton made a pair of unforced errors, suffered a double fault and then hit long from the baseline to put Haarhuis up 6-5. Haarhuis then quickly sent Wheaton, who put only 44 per cent of his first serves in play, packing with a service winner, an ace, an overhead winner and then another ace to close out the match.

Washington outlasted Chang in a 2-hour, 31-minute match that saw both players content to spend most of the afternoon at the baseline.

"I wanted to be patient with him, but I didn't want to let him get into groove," Washington said. "He's such a good counter-puncher that I took a little pace off to make him be the aggressor — which he doesn't want to do."

GOREN BRIDGE

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DO THE RIGHT THING

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7
♥ A Q J 6 5
♦ 10 7 4
♣ J 9 8 6 2
EAST
♠ A 10 5 3
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 10 3 2
♣ A Q 6
SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ K J 10 8 7 4
♦ K 9
♣ 8 5 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 4 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

We don't know who irritates us more, the player who never returns partner's suit, or the one who always does. Both seem to forget that what distinguishes *nono sapiens* from the lower species is the ability to reason. Consider this hand. North had a choice of rebids at his second turn: raising partner or rebidding the diamonds. With such excellent three-card support and a ruffing value, the raise stands out. When this hand was played at rubber bridge, West took the first

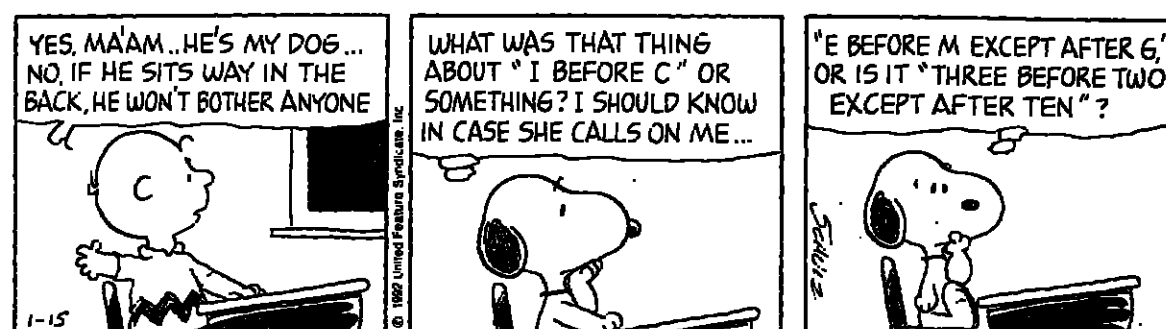
trick with the ace of spades and shot back another spade. A delighted declarer took the rest of the tricks — one spade, six hearts and five diamonds — instead of the nine that were South's limit had East not played mechanically.

When dummy comes down, East can see that the best he can hope for from partner is one of the four missing kings — declarer must surely hold at least three kings for his jump to game after a single raise from opener. If that king is in spades, the most the defenders can do is hold declarer to his contract by taking two spade tricks and the ace of clubs. If it is finessable and all the defenders could do would be to cash the ace of clubs and renounce declarer the contract with an overtrick.

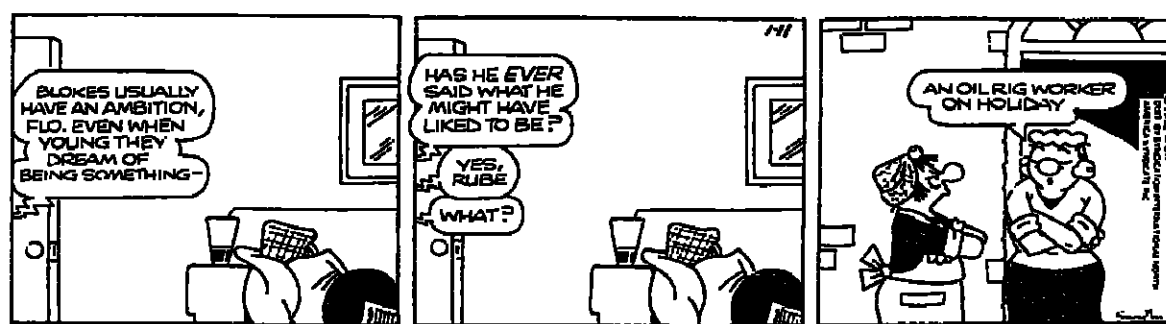
The only hope for the defense is that West has the king of clubs. Thus, at trick two East should have laid down the ace of clubs. This would have brought an enthusiastic come-in from West in the form of the nine of clubs, and a club continuation would have led to an inevitable one-trick defeat.

We are changing a hoary rubric. Henceforth, it will read: "Always return partner's suit unless common sense tells you there is a better play!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR Saturday FEBRUARY 15, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Four Moon oppositions to Uranus, Neptune, Venus and Mars make it imperative that you do not allow yourself to get into any sort of argument which under these aspects, could cost you dearly.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Looking at whatever you do privately is the best means for you to accomplish and to achieve some very worthwhile results that will please you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact at whatever you are acquainted and get their standpoints how you can best attain your personal, secret desires.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You see now where an unusual associate will be able to help you in progressive manner to gain some public or worldly ambition you seek.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day when a new outlet is available to you where by you can handle those practical matters that mean so much to you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your intuitive perceptions are very accurate now how best to put into motion those special aptitudes have and accept quickly the chance to express them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get out with partners and associates who understand your

basic needs and let them know just what they can do to aid you having a greater security.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can find some ways to had not thought of before this to do whatever your activities more in accordance with suggestions made by wise experts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can have some happy moments today at the amusements of your choice but also make sure you are aware of a financial activity requiring attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind of a starting and original nature needs to be discussed with members of your own household for best results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider the many messages and communications to and from you to outside contacts and put a special little joyous where you can to each one.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can see how to have a better well rounded material arrangement so that you can gain some important personal desires by more care in details.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You see the best ways by which you can bring your intimate desires to yourself and don't let an outsider demand keep you from going through-with such a course.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I made this low-calorie carrot cake for your diet!"

JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SACEE
DUBOT
FACTRY
TIPSEC



WHEN HE STAYED TOO LONG THE GUEST BECAME THIS.

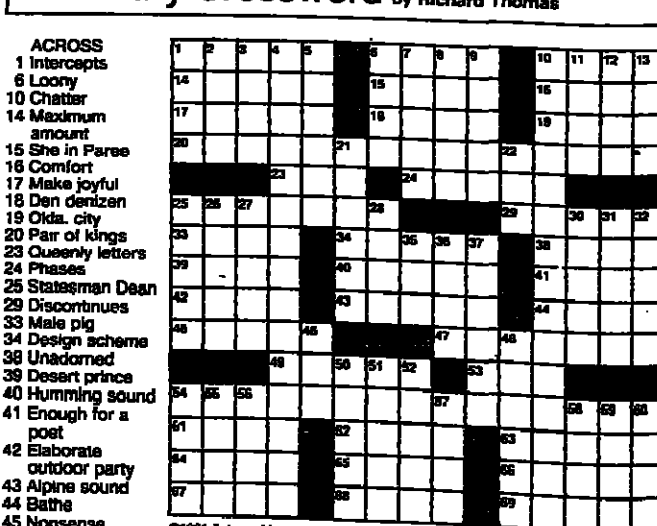
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUILT RAPID DELUXE PUMICE
Answer: A periscope is just about the only person who can climb down a tree HE NEVER CLIMBED UP

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Intercepts
6 Loony
10 Chatter
14 Maximum amount
15 She in Paris
16 Comfort
17 Make joyful
18 Den denizen
19 Olds, city
20 Pair of kings
23 Queenly letters
24 Phrases
25 Statesman Dean
29 Discontinues
33 Male pig
34 Design scheme
38 Unadorned
39 Desert prince
40 Humming sound
41 Enough for a poet
42 Elaborate
43 outdoor party
45 Alpine snow
46 Bath
48 Nonsense
49 Less soldier
49 Mountain nymph of myth
53 One of seven
54 Three jacks
61 Lie adjacent to
62 — tide
63 Character in a to's tale
64 Hot or head end
65 Steady
66 Famed Ford
67 Standout
68 Secretary's secretary
69 Units of force
DOWN
1 Job
2 Mosaic piece
3 Arabian gulf
4 Pair of aces
5 Title
6 Small secluded valley
7 Pseudonym
8 Show contempt for
9 Uplight
10 Three queens
11 Terra firma
12 Burma, China
13 Foundations
21 Cheaply imitative
22 Speed letters
25 Nautical word
26 Late or new end
27 Caribbean
28 Claudius' successor
30 Island veranda
31 Treasure
32 Urban drain
33 Fish
36 Pin fifth
37 Enjoy
46 Ryan stat
48 Turned pages
50 Weeklined
51 On top
52 Braska bread
54 Dancer and Pythias
55 News item
56 Casserole fish
57 War vehicle
58 West of Wisc.
59 Toledo's waterfront
60 Grass and broad

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 12/2/20	TOKYO CLOSE 12/2/20
Sterling Pound	1.7885	1.7948
Deutsche Mark	1.6073	1.5053
Swiss Franc	1.4400	1.4334
French Franc	5.4760	5.4440
Japanese Yen	127.40	127.33
European Currency Unit	1.2715	1.2778

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European Opening at 9:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.93	3.93	3.93	4.31
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.25	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.56	9.43	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.18	7.18	7.18	7.06
French Franc	10.00	9.87	9.81	9.71
Japanese Yen	5.56	5.28	5.09	3.93
European Currency Unit	10.12	10.18	10.12	9.75

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.60	6.75	Silver	4.23	.090

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.678	.680
Sterling Pound	1.2119	1.2180
Deutsche Mark	.4218	.4220
Swiss Franc	.4710	.4734
French Franc	.1238	.1244
Japanese Yen	.5320	.5347
Dutch Guilder	.3748	.3767
Swedish Krona	.1152	.1168
Italian Lira	.0561	.0564
Belgian Franc	.02652	.02662

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7590	1.7800
Lebanese Lira	.0769	.0777
Saudi Riyal	.1805	.1816
Kuwaiti Dinar	---	---
Qatari Riyal	.1837	.1850
Egyptian Pound	.2020	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7750	1.7440
UAE Dirham	.1837	.1850
Greek Drachma	.3625	.3730
Cypriot Pound	1.4790	1.5025

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	11/2/1992	Close	12/2/1992	Close
All-Share	137.53		137.63	
Banking Sector	110.35		110.55	
Insurance Sector	133.69		134.25	
Industry Sector	177.89		177.93	
Services Sector	155.05		154.21	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7722/32	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1855/60	Canadian dollar
	1.6215/25	Deutschmarks
	1.8250/60	Dutch guilders
	1.4570/80	Swiss francs
	33.40/45	Belgian francs
	5.5225/75	French francs
	1217/1218	Italian lire
	127.60/70	Japanese yen
	5.8900/50	Swedish crowns
	6.3600/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.2875/2925	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	355.35/355.85	U.S. dollars

Historic Lloyd's insurance case ends in out-of-court settlement

LONDON (R) — Members of Lloyd's of London, the world's biggest insurance market, have announced a truce in an historic suit over heavy losses with an out-of-court settlement worth £116 million (\$212 million).

The deal, concluded in talks over the past week, effectively halted charges by 985 Lloyd's members against syndicate manager RHM Outhwaite (Underwriting Agencies) Ltd. in the first High Court action against a British insurance syndicate.

The agreement is subject to ratification by both sides.

The members who brought the complaint included former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, publisher George Weidenfeld and one-time Wimbledon tennis champion Virginia Wade. The late media tycoon Robert Maxwell had also been among the plaintiffs.

Lloyd's members take unlimited liability for their own trading when they pledge money to back risks. Many have been driven near to bankruptcy amid rising claims for past insurance policies and an unprecedented string of catastrophes.

Syndicate members claimed that negligence and breach of duty by the firm and its underwriter Richard Outhwaite on reinsurance contracts in 1982 lost them millions of pounds.

The Outhwaite losses, which the court heard reached \$456 million by the end of 1989, arose from reinsurance cover on decades-old policies against disease risks from asbestos.

"The Outhwaite 1982 names association is going to be paid £116 million as settlement of the case," Peter Nutting, chairman of the members' action group which brought the suit, told a news

conference. "No liability has been admitted by anybody — and this will be the end of it," he added.

The end of the Outhwaite case offered a confused message to thousands of other Lloyd's backers, known as names, considering litigation for insurance losses on both sides of the Atlantic.

Lloyd's members said questions on liability and agents' duties towards names, central to a raging debate on the future of the market, had been swept aside in an old-style gentlemen's agreement over money.

"Outhwaite is pleased and relieved this matter is drawing to a close," said member Anthony Haynes for Richard Outhwaite. The case opened in October.

Some 80 members' agents, who advised names to join ill-fated syndicate 317/661, were also

charged in the suit with liability for the underwriter's actions. They denied liability.

Mr. Nutting said the defendants would meet the bulk of the settlement out of insurance which they had to buy when Outhwaite wrote the 32 disputed reinsurance contracts.

The settlement would pay about £61 million (\$112 million) in compensation for cash calls paid to date by the names, £34 million (\$62 million) for the risk of anticipated future losses, £19 million (\$35 million) in interest and £2 million (\$3.7 million) towards legal expenses.

A person who pledged £30,000 (\$54,900) to the syndicate would receive about £135,000 (\$247,000), Mr. Nutting said. He said before the case that such a commitment would have generated £150,000 (\$274,000) in losses.

Snow, floods severely damage Israeli farms

TEL AVIV (R) — Freak snow and floods in Israel could slash planned fresh produce and flower exports to Europe by 35 per cent in 1992, a farmers' organisation spokesman has said.

"There will be a 35 per cent drop in the planned export of fresh produce and flowers to Europe for 1992," a spokesman for Nissim Zvili, head of the

Moshav (semi-collective farm Movement), told Reuters.

He said Israel had originally planned \$450 million of such exports in 1992, but now expected to do some \$157 million less business.

The agriculture ministry described storm damage as severe but said it could not yet quantify

it or its effect on exports.

Flowers, avocados, citrus, mangos, cucumbers and bananas were especially hard hit, Zvili's spokesman said.

The agriculture sector as a whole sustained heavy damage to livestock, poultry, fish, fields, infrastructure and equipment. The spokesman said total losses could be more than 500 million shekels

(\$217 million).

Israel's natural disaster assistance fund put the overall damage at 30 million shekels (\$22 million).

But its director general, Yehonatan Shohori, told Israel radio the figure was an initial estimate, and did not cover real estate, infrastructure or equipment.

Yale to slowly eliminate 12% of faculty jobs

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Prestigious Yale University says it will eliminate from 10 per cent to 12 per cent of its faculty positions in arts and sciences over the next decade to help control expenses.

University President Benno Schmidt said the reductions — part of an attempt to eliminate growing budget deficits at the private school — will be achieved through attrition and not through layoffs.

The school's arts and sciences faculty has about 625 professors. The faculty of the university's professional schools would not be affected by the planned reductions.

Yale set out in 1980 to reduce

its number of budgeted teaching faculty by 7.5 per cent. But the number actually increased by three per cent.

For over a year, the university administration has been saying that Yale has been living beyond its means and must become a leaner institution.

Yale is facing a projected \$8.8 million shortfall in the current budget, its first deficit in 11 years. The administration has warned that Yale faces years of growing deficits if costs are not contained.

The university has laid off more than 100 employees over the past year, and has set a goal of further reducing its administrative staff by 15 per cent.

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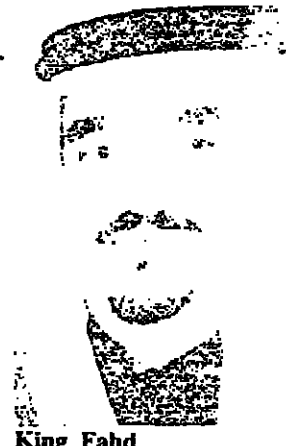
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Saudi king predicts oil glut to be mopped in two months



King Fahd

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi King Fahd has predicted that an oil glut that has driven down world oil prices would be mopped up in two months.

In an interview published in Friday's issue of the London-based Arabic magazine Al Hawadeth, the king said oil giant Saudi Arabia would never cause a decline in prices.

"The oil glut will be mopped up over two months and the market will return to its nature," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the king as saying in extracts of his remarks to the magazine.

It was not clear whether King Fahd was speaking before or after Wednesday's start of a crucial OPEC meeting in Geneva.

Ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were expected to continue their talks for a third day Friday to find a way of cutting output to stem a decline in prices caused by a glut in the market.

Oil prices are around \$4 per barrel below the group's \$21 per barrel target. Analysts say they may decline further in the second quarter of the year due to a seasonal slump in demand unless ministers agree on a meaningful reduction in supply.

During the Geneva talks some OPEC delegates said Saudi Arabia was reluctant to give up the high market share it acquired during the Gulf crisis. The kingdom pumps a third of OPEC's 24.2 million barrels per day (b/d) in current output.

"We in Saudi Arabia never attempt to create problems for OPEC ... but we do not want problems to be created for us like what happened in the past," the king said without elaborating.

"I assert that we, in Saudi Arabia, will never be the cause of a decline in oil prices," he added.

King Fahd said oil prices fell after the release of "huge amounts of oil by various world countries right after Iraq's entry into Kuwait."

"When these countries saw things had returned to stability and Kuwait returned to its normal situation, they used these amounts," he was quoted as saying by SPA.

He did not identify any of the countries he said had flooded the market.

In Geneva, Saudi Arabia has put forward a plan to break a stalemate blocking a deal to cut the group's excess oil output and head off a potential price collapse.

A senior delegate source said Friday the plan, which has two options, relaxes the kingdom's insistence that it pump at least eight million b/d — more than a third of OPEC's current output — which has held up the group's strategy talks for two days.

The source, who spoke on condition that he was not identified, said the Saudi proposal suggests chopping OPEC output to between 22.5 and 22.7 million b/d, below the 23 million b/d ceiling that Saudi Arabia had favoured until now.

The Saudi share of production under either option would be below eight million b/d but not below 7.8 million, he said.

Allocating shares of output to individual countries has become a crucial issue as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries seeks to restore discipline to its ranks and present a solid front to sceptical markets.

The suggestion seemed to nudge OPEC closer to a compromise that could prop up prices.

But ministers said they still needed more time to talk.

"Bilateral and multilateral discussions are taking place. There is no plenary meeting planned," OPEC Secretary-General Subroto told reporters.

"The situation is still in flux," he said, adding that it was unclear whether all 13 ministers would gather for informal talks later in the day.

The 13 OPEC members produced around 24.4 million b/d in January, of which the Saudis pumped 8.64 million, a Reuters industry survey found.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Abdulla Al Rqobah said he thought the Saudis would accept a lower output ceiling for the group as long as they were satisfied with their own share.

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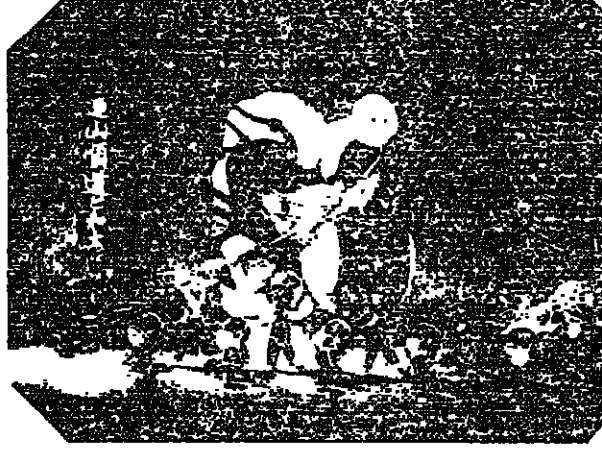
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3 republics refuse to join unified Commonwealth force

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Three republics refused Friday to participate in a united Commonwealth Armed Force, while the other eight drafted plans for a "unified command" to remain in place for two years.

A Belarusian government spokesman said Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan opted out of any military role in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The remaining eight republics appointed a working group to draft an agreement for a transitional "unified command," said the spokesman, Stanislav Ogorisov.

The dispute over the armed forces threatens the future of young Commonwealth of 11 nations that arose from the disintegrated Soviet Union nine weeks ago.

Mr. Ogorisov had no other details on the latest development, and it was not immediately clear whether the majority of Commonwealth leaders had adopted a compromise proposal by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Mr. Nazarbayev, seeking to end the military dispute, had proposed that former Soviet republics by allowed to form their own conventional armies, and then decide whether to join a unified force.

Mr. Nazarbayev's press spokesman, Seitzky Matayev, told reporters the Kazakh president proposed a transition period, under which republics would be given jurisdiction over former Soviet forces on their territories.

Each republic could then decide whether it wanted to create its own independent armed forces, and whether it eventually wanted to join a unified force, Mr. Matayev said.

Republics could belong to the Commonwealth's political and economic structure, but not its armed forces, he quoted Mr. Nazarbayev as proposing.

"Let's have a transition period to decide all military questions," Mr. Matayev told reporters during recess at the third summit of Commonwealth leaders.

"Those Commonwealth states that want to unite their armed forces would conclude an agreement and those who don't want to, would create their own armed forces..."

Mr. Nazarbayev's proposal only appeared to encompass conventional forces, and would not apply to the strategic nuclear weapons housed in

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Those weapons now are under central control, and the nuclear republics have repeatedly said they are committed to such a system.

The dispute over a unified force has stalled coordination of economic reforms in the former Soviet Union and heightened tensions among member states.

Upon arriving in Minsk Thursday night and early Friday, both supporters and opponents of a unified force called it a lost cause.

"There is no way to preserve a single armed force. A single armed force can exist only in a single state," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was quoted as saying by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

"If a single armed force exists in the 12 states, then it will be the end of democracy, because the military will be superior to all states," Mr. Kravchuk added in remarks broadcast over Commonwealth television.

Mr. Nazarbayev was almost as pessimistic after stepping off his plane in Belarus's grim, industrial city, chosen as Commonwealth's administrative centre. "The Commonwealth doesn't even exist now like it was envisioned," Mr. Nazarbayev said.

Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov, asked whether the unified force could be preserved in Minsk, told ITAR-TASS: "I don't think so."

"There's nothing strange in independent states having their own national armies. But it's something else to establish their relations within the framework of the Commonwealth," Azerbaijani President Ayaz Muttalibov said.

Presidents, prime ministers or parliamentary chairmen of all 11 Commonwealth states attended Friday's meeting, which was held in a former Communist Party Central Committee building.

Georgia, the only former Soviet republic which does not belong to the Commonwealth, sent an observer to the talks.

As the leaders gathered around an oval table under a tapestry of Lenin, Russian President Boris Yeltsin nominated Ukraine's Mr. Kravchuk as the meeting's chairman, "considering the difficult situation."

Mr. Yeltsin was referring not only to the dispute over separate armies, but also to the tug-of-war between Mr. Yeltsin and Ukraine for control of the powerful Black Sea Fleet, and for the Crimean peninsula where it

has its headquarters. Ukraine also has objected to Russia's unilateral decision to lift price controls, saying Russians would flood across the border in search of cheaper goods. It also has accused Russia of refusing to distribute rubles to other republics, causing widespread cash shortages.

Russia, finally acknowledging the break-up of the Soviet Armed Forces, is to set up its own army, a military aide to President Yeltsin said Wednesday.

Colonel-General Dmitry Volkogonov said in an interview with the daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta that Mr. Yeltsin would issue a decree on the subject, probably soon after Friday's summit of former Soviet republics.

But another senior Russian general said in the daily Izvestia that fragmentation of the former Soviet Armed Forces threatened to undermine East-West accords restricting numbers and deployment of conventional forces.

Gen. Volkogonov said all troops on Russian territory and in other East European countries should eventually join the new army. But he made clear he expected the Commonwealth of Independent States would also keep a force under joint command.

Gen. Volkogonov said Russia was being dragged into raising an army of its own.

"Russia has more than once stated that it will not be the first to set up armed forces," Gen. Volkogonov said. "But after the Minsk meeting the moment will come when we must announce the creation of our own Russian army. There will be a presidential decree. Probably after Feb. 14."

Nezavisimaya Gazeta said Commonwealth military commanders had decided to press Mr. Yeltsin to create a Russian army so that disarmament treaties with the West could be ratified.

Without an army, Russia was in no legal position to ratify the strategic arms reduction treaty (START) and the Paris agreement on conventional forces, it said.

Gen. Volkogonov said the Russian force would have an army, which in Russian parlance also includes an air force, a navy, Interior Ministry troops, a Defence Ministry, general staff and logistics department.

It should become a largely professional force in the next few years — the current military is manned largely

through compulsory military service. If ideas for a strategic defence pact with the United States went ahead, the army would need a maximum of 1.5 million men, the general said.

Gen. Volkogonov made no mention of the Soviet Union's 30,000-odd nuclear warheads. Commonwealth leaders have agreed these shall be under Mr. Yeltsin's overall command.

Meanwhile 6 Russian aircraft of the former Soviet Air Force "defected" from Ukraine with their warplanes, rather than take an oath to defend the newly-independent state, ITAR-TASS said Friday.

The aircraft, none of them armed, took off without permission from an air base near the city of Starokostiantyniv and landed in neighbouring Belarus, TASS said. They continued on to a base outside Moscow.

"The planes did not have their armaments but the pilots brought with them their regimental banner," it said.

Ukraine is seeking to build its own army, taking over military units, nationalising Soviet military hardware and requiring officers to swear allegiance to the republic.

In a separate development, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited the heart of the former Soviet nuclear programme Friday, saying that Washington wants to work with them on destroying their weapons and turning their skills to peace.

At Chelyabinsk-70's Institute of Technical Physics, where scientists designed the nuclear warheads that were aimed at the United States for 40 years, Mr. Baker heard from technicians about their money shortages and their ideas for converting the facility to peaceful work.

"It is a very remarkable event for us," said Viktor Mikhailov, Russia's deputy minister of atomic energy.

As Mr. Baker arrived, hundreds of people crowded at the windows of the eight-story building. They waved, smiled and shouted words of welcome.

Mr. Baker was given a tour of several design laboratories, where he donned a lead vest and shoe and head coverings to protect him from radiation.

3 killed in Croatia as U.N. deployment nears

BELGRADE (R) — Three people were Friday reported killed in fighting in Croatia, prompting new calls for the United Nations to send peacekeeping troops to Yugoslavia as soon as possible.

Croatian police said two people died when a shell hit their car in Osijek in eastern Croatia Thursday night and a 19-year-old girl was killed in shelling of nearby Cepin by Serb-led forces. Eight people were also wounded.

The Croatian News Agency (HINA) said the Adriatic port of Zadar came under fire. The report was not confirmed but the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said two Yugoslav army soldiers were wounded in separate fighting in a nearby village.

Fighting between Croatian militia and Serb irregular forces backed by the Yugoslav army has slowly increased in the past week despite a ceasefire in force since Jan. 3.

Fearing the almost eight-month conflict could flare again, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recommended Thursday the rapid deployment of about 13,000 peacekeepers in Croatia.

Yugoslav officials and diplomats said the U.N. should send the force as soon as possible because the truce could collapse and political obstacles could arise at any time.

"The experience of the last few days has shown that as time goes by, political positions harden and the rival parties react strongly to each other's comments," said a western diplomat.

"The agreement on the peacekeeping forces may not just lay at the edges, it could totally unravel."

The U.N. started recruiting troops Thursday from among 31 countries. Full approval is expected next week and an advance party could arrive two weeks later.

The U.N. is trying to achieve a lasting peace after fighting that has killed more than 6,000 people and made about 700,000 people homeless since Croatia declared independence last June. But deployment is fraught with difficulties.

Apart from the increase in ceasefire violations this week, Serb hardliners in Croatia oppose the plan and some Croatian officials have reservations even though Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has said he accepts it unconditionally.

Diplomats are concerned that dihard Serbs in the Krajina enclave of Croatia will use force to resist deployment.

"There are plenty of men running around with guns who would like to provoke an incident that could be blamed on the other side," said one European diplomat.

Other officials are worried that no peacekeepers will go to Bosnia-Herzegovina, a central republic where tensions are high between Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

The leaders of the three rival national groups held a second day of talks Friday at a conference supervised by European Community officials in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Bangladesh seeks aid for Burmese refugees

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh is asking for international aid for up to 100,000 Muslim refugees from Burma who are facing starvation and disease as the rainy season approaches, officials said Friday.

"We are going to ask international agencies and governments to help us cope with the continuing influx of the refugees," one official said.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka Thursday for London on the first leg of a two-week tour of Europe and Middle East.

"The minister... will brief political leadership in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy on the plight of the Myanmar (Burmese) refugees," a Foreign Ministry official said.

He would also go to Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, the official said.

The Relief Ministry would meanwhile appeal to various U.N. agencies, the International Red Cross and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for food and medical help, officials said.

The refugees began arriving in south eastern Bangladesh from west Burma's Muslim-majority Arakan state early last year to escape persecution by Rangoon's military junta.

But their numbers suddenly increased after Dec. 21 when Burmese troops attacked a security camp in Bangladesh, killing one soldier and wounding three.

Burma accuses Bangladesh of harbouring Rohingya (Muslim) rebels fighting for an independent homeland in Arakan. Dhaka denies the charge.

The border incident sparked a military alert by Dhaka, and both sides have since massed thousands of troops along the 270-kilometre frontier.

Officials say the arrival of an average 1,500 refugees a day has brought the total to up to 100,000.

Some of the refugees live in makeshift bamboo-and-straw huts, while others live in the open or with relatives who fled to Bangladesh earlier.

Refugee sources say nearly 100 women and children have died of hunger and disease since January and thousands more are suffering from diarrhoea and malnutrition.

The Brussels-based relief group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said in a report Wednesday that health conditions among thousands of Burmese refugees were deteriorating dramatically.

An MSF team, working in the Kunda Palong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, have found that 30 per cent of the children have severe malnutrition.

Relief operations cover no more than 10 per cent of the food needs of the refugees, MSF said, adding that reported measles cases could trigger an epidemic.

Camp officials say the plight of the refugees will worsen during the rainy season due to begin next month.

Burma accuses Bangladesh of

Baltics lose a little in translation

ALBERTVILLE (R) — Baltic states have won their independence, but lost a little in translation. All Olympics handbooks have their eccentricities but the guides from Latvia and Lithuania are a particular joy. Few people know the Latvian head of delegation has brown eyes and enjoys decorative woodwork and weaving. His boss, the National Olympic Committee president, has blue eyes and lists his hobby as political entertainment. The trainer of Olympic 10-km cross country champion Vida Ventsene enjoys gathering mushrooms. The biathlon trainer likes fishing and gardening. Enigmatically he has the motto: "The worse, the better." One of his athletes insists: "Die but struggle (struggle) for the truth," while the country's chief de mission advises: "Never use (lose) your hope." Latvians, by and large, have blue eyes. Among their characteristics are calmness, thoughtfulness, peacefulness and tenderness. One of the lugers, however, admits to lavishness. Perhaps he harks back to 1939 when, among European countries, Latvia had the most students, the most books published — and the most telephones. And not many people know that.

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